

HUMBOLDT GROW SECRETS

HIGHTIMES

October 501

POT JOBS

FIND A CANNABIS
CAREER

NORCAL'S BEST BUDS

SERIOUS KUSH

THE NEW
POWER PLANT

**DOUG
STANHOPE**
INTERVIEW BY
**JOHNNY
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**TRUE
CRIMES**
OF REEFER
MADNESS

DISJOINTED
NETFLIX'S
NEXT BIG HIT

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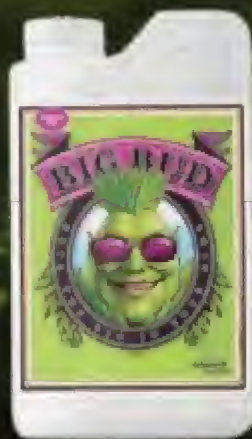
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HIGH TIMES OCTOBER



Growing pot for a living is a local tradition that has been practiced and handed down from generation to generation.

Humboldt's Finest Cannabis—page 74

10 Internet

12 Editor's Letter

14 Letters

16 Contact High

23 Highwitness News

Progress in protecting legal pot and High Five

30 Lifestyle

32 Entertainment

The thriving grassroots of 311 and Reviews

38 Cannabusiness

40 THMQ

Trans-High Market Quotations

120 Gear

131 Dear Danko

138 Edibles

140 Dr. Mitch

142 NORMLizer/ FFOTM

146 Pix of the Crop

150 Next Month

156 The Pot 40

45 2017 Pot Jobs Report

Cannabis has become the country's fastest-growing industry, and employment opportunities abound. Find out how you can get involved! *By Jen Bernstein*

59 Kush Gets Serious

A legendary seed-breeding company has released a new strain that's turning heads around the world. Find out the methods Serious Seeds used to produce a bold new variety.

74 Humboldt's Finest Cannabis

Learn the secrets to growing the best pot on Earth from the experienced farmers of Humboldt County. Veteran cultivators reveal their techniques for producing sustainable, all-natural marijuana. *By Danny Danko*

95 The Crimes of Reefer Madness

Government propaganda played an enormous role in pushing the prohibition of cannabis onto an unsuspecting public. We examine the true-crime cases that were used to create reefer madness. *By Mona Zhang*

105 Weed in Wine Country

Cannabis lovers, growers and ganjapreneurs assembled for a three-day celebration in Sonoma County, CA to savor and share the region's best weed at the 2017 NorCal Cannabis Cup. *By Mary Jane Gibson*

112 The High Times Interview: Doug Stanhope

Comedian Doug Stanhope joins Johnny Depp for an exclusive conversation on stand-up comedy, cannabis, creativity, fame and more.

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► The Ultimate Stoner Dorm Room Guide

It's about that time again! Stoners across the country are bidding farewell to summer and preparing to head back to campus. As the new school year looms, many students are anxious to return to the relative freedoms of dorm life. However, even without parental supervision, there are still plenty of hazards to getting high in your dorm. Fortunately,

High Times has you covered with our annual "Ultimate Dorm Room Guide."

Whether you're hoping to maximize your living space to start a stealthy, closet grow, or you're just here for the tips and tricks for evading the watchful eye (and nose) of your prying RA, *High Times* can help. Check out the "Ultimate Dorm Room Guide" and do dorm life right! **Visit hightimes.com for more...**

► On Instagram

This month we're examining the legendary sustainable cultivation practices of the Emerald Triangle ("Humboldt's Finest Cannabis," page 74) and this photo, posted by @diggs_terra caught our eye. The long exposure, taken by @jasonhartwick, perfectly captures the Northern California night sky and eco-friendly cannabis, grown to perfection by @humboldtseeds.

While the cannabis industry has made great economic strides in recent years, it would be best served by adopting the sustainable, all-natural, Earth-friendly methods practiced by the experienced growers of the Emerald Triangle, who have passed along these techniques from generation to generation.



► Smoking Poll



Which Legal State Would You Be Most Willing to Move to for a Pot Job?

Colorado	34%
California	20%
Oregon	13%
Washington	10%
Nevada	10%
Maine	6%
Massachusetts	6%
Alaska	3%
Massachusetts	3%

This month we explain how to get a job in the marijuana industry in our 2017 Pot Jobs Report (page 45). The business of bud is booming and workers from a wide range of backgrounds are looking to get involved in the cannabis industry. But whether you've got your sights set on becoming a budtender, cultivator or cannabis business owner, you're going to have to relocate if you currently live in a prohibition state.

Thanks to a historic election in 2016, there are now eight legal-marijuana states—from California's massive market to Maine's incipient industry. So, we decided to ask our readers which legal-pot state they'd most like to relocate to for a cannabis job.

Colorado, with its well-established cannabis scene, came in first by a wide margin with 34 percent of the vote. California, which will introduce recreational pot sales in 2018, finished second with 20 percent. Oregon, Nevada and Washington State garnered 13, 10 and 9 percent of the vote respectively, while East Coast newcomers Maine and Massachusetts each got 6 percent. Alaska finished last with just 3 percent of the vote.

Take our latest poll online!



► We Want To Hear From You!

Tweet your best high observations and comments our way @HIGH_TIMES_Mag for a chance to be featured on this page! And be sure to follow us on Facebook (Facebook/HIGHTIMES-Mag) and Instagram (@hightimesmagazine) for all the latest news as it's happening!

@demiancscott: @HIGH_TIMES_Mag I was at a shop in Nevada yesterday buying recreational marijuana! (shatter actually) It's great! #legalweed #LegalizeIt

@Unclestoner: @HIGH_TIMES_Mag Believe it or not because of my ex military experience. Italy gave me a recommendation for cannabis. 2 years ago. It's all in Italian

@Cayce420: @HIGH_TIMES_Mag I got me a stoner chicken and she is awesome!

@moldresistant: @HIGH_TIMES_Mag @DrDabber No thanks on the dabs. Straight-flower blunts #freedom

@Evefandango: @HIGH_TIMES_Mag Honey infused tinctures are the best and only thing I have found helpful for sleep (and pain). No more pills. Just the honey

@highertv: @HIGH_TIMES_Mag If only they sold edibles along with hotdogs in States that have legalized it! @MLB #LegalizeIt @MichaelStusser

@William05348838: @HIGH_TIMES_Mag Jeff sessions needs to go back to the 1950s where he'll feel comfortable but it's the 2017 and cannabis is going to become legal!!!

@GunnetteP: @HIGH_TIMES_Mag @JeffreyWHills1 Lobby congress to get THC off schedule 1

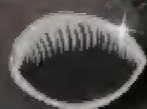
@calihighguys: @HIGH_TIMES_Mag People need to tip the cannabis delivery guy too!!

@BreakingBiff: @HIGH_TIMES_Mag I got the hots for my bud-tender But she said she don't date potheads

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Get a Job!

In the years since *High Times* came out with its first annual “Pot Jobs Report” in 2014, the cannabis industry has experienced remarkable growth. Analysts estimate that by 2025, the business of cannabis will be worth more than \$24 billion—up from an estimated \$6.6 billion in 2016. This incredible surge is due in large part to the 2016 election, which saw four additional states—California, Maine, Massachusetts and Nevada—legalize recreational cannabis. Eight states now boast legal pot, and they’re home to 63 million people—meaning that 20 percent of the country’s population now lives in a state that allows the recreational use of cannabis by adults. Add medical marijuana to that picture, and more than half of the country’s population (nearly 60 percent) lives in a state with some form of legal, regulated marijuana use.

What does all this mean? Among other things, jobs—and plenty of them. New Frontier Data estimates that, nationwide, the cannabis industry will account for at least 255,000 jobs by 2020. Naturally, if more states join the ranks of legalized states in subsequent elections, those numbers will only rise.

While there is some cause for concern regarding the new administration—especially President Trump’s penchant for surrounding himself with old-timey drug warriors—the booming market, and the hundreds of millions of dollars in tax revenue that it generates, will make it awfully tough for anybody to put the toothpaste back in the tube. In short, there’s never been a better time to get involved in the legal marijuana industry. Find out how to get your start in our 2017 “Pot Jobs Report.”

Also in this issue, we travel to California’s Humboldt County to learn the techniques of the Emerald Triangle’s master growers, and we tell the story of the latest masterpiece from the legendary seed bank Serious Seeds. We also explore the true crimes behind the reefer-madness propaganda that the federal government used to sell pot prohibition, and we report on our 2017 NorCal Cup, held in beautiful Sonoma County, CA. Plus Johnny Depp sits down with stand-up comedian Doug Stanhope for a candid conversation about comedy, creativity, fame and much more.

Enjoy the 501st issue of *High Times* magazine.

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Great Times, High Times

It was at my first NORML conference, in Washington, DC, in the fall of 1973, that I met Tom Forçade, the founder of *High Times*. I was introduced to him by Keith Stroup, who had started NORML three years earlier. Tom looked like a movie star to me, with his wide-brimmed hat and long hair. I learned that he had made a lot of money smuggling marijuana and would use some of it to create a magazine devoted to enjoyment of the drug and to reforming the draconian marijuana laws in this country. We smoked a very powerful and good-tasting joint together and went downstairs to join the conference activities. Not long after that, I met Michael Kennedy [former *High Times* legal counsel and chairman] through NORML. We became friends immediately, although I was just a law student and Michael was the most impressive lawyer I had ever met. I came to know many others who worked at *High Times* over the years. I still remember the trip to New York City and the offices of *High Times* with the NORML board. We got to the office in time to take a smoke break at 4:20 pm. That is where “420” started for me. I also remember the trip to Amsterdam for the Cannabis Cup. Great times always with the *HT* group. *High Times* and NORML have worked together for the reform of marijuana laws and the protection of our liberty for over 40 years. It’s the way Tom and Michael wanted it.

Steve Dillon

Chair of the NORML board of directors

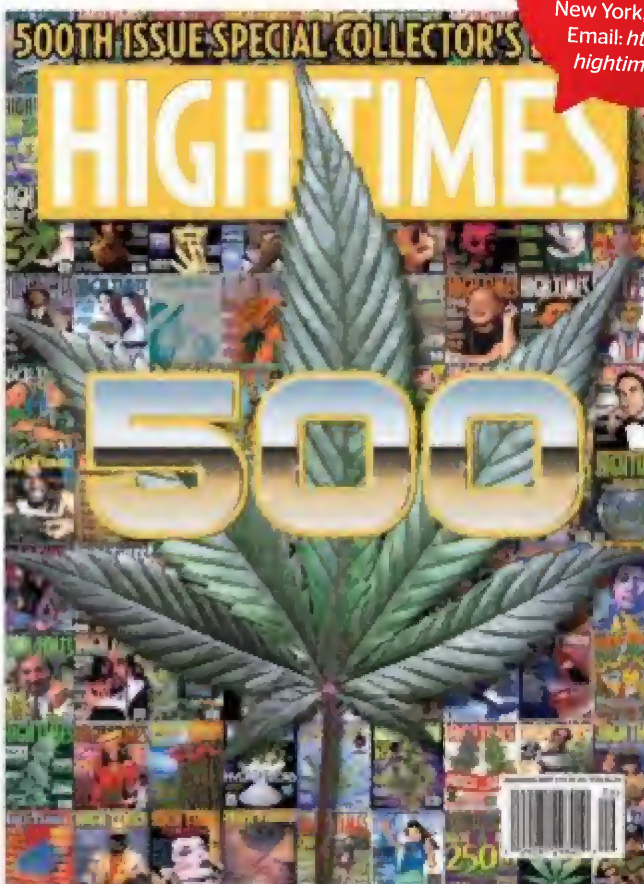
Resisting Change

I live in Indiana. It was deemed one of the last states that would consider medical marijuana use, but just recently the state passed a bill that would allow people who need marijuana medicinally to use cannabis oil, though without any THC. However, children still get taken away from parents who smoke, and the cops still arrest you for a gram of weed out here.

*Jeanna
Indiana*

Informing for Change

There’s a story floating around my hometown that some guys who get high and work at the local car wash are “scenting” the customers’ cars. When a car comes in that has government tags on it or obviously belongs to someone who is well-to-do, they take a rag used



High Times and NORML have worked together for the reform of marijuana laws and the protection of our liberty for over 40 years.

to wipe the car down and scent it by rubbing a bud in it, thus transferring the scent to the car’s carpet and seats. They then take the tag number down and later call in an anonymous tip on the car smelling like pot.

They call it “spreading the weed.” They figure the more time cops spend on these cars with the K-9s, the fewer pot busts they will make, thus jamming up the system. Just think what it would do to the system if this could be done all across the country.

Loknlode

Sounds like someone in your town is spinning yarns. Nonetheless, do not try this. I mean, would you want some gun smuggler telling the cops that you’ve got a trunk full of unregistered TEC-9s? No, you wouldn’t; that would suck. This idea is in the same vein as dosing someone: Even if you believe they deserve it, you just don’t do it. Ever. Your local car-wash guys would be much better served by getting involved in the local marijuana-law reform community. Join NORML, advocate for legalization and fight unjust cannabis laws like a responsible adult.

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Yes We Cannabis

Attorney General Sessions, enough is enough—it is no longer acceptable for you to claim that marijuana has no medical benefit! And working to enforce legislation against medical patients should be criminal. Here in Connecticut, there are over 18,000 registered medical marijuana patients, of which I am one.

Since you’re the country’s top law-enforcement official, I would like to think that you are capable of reviewing the facts and evidence in an unbiased way, but instead it seems your views are skewed by the funds earned from the prison-for-profit industry, the pharmaceutical industry, big alcohol and big tobacco, as well as many other industries that could potentially lose their profits due to medical marijuana’s effectiveness.

I am personally offended that you consider the American people to be so dimwitted that they would stand by while you

continue the War on Drugs (or the war on minorities—let’s call it for what it is). You, sir, are gearing up for a hard-fought battle with a demographic that cares deeply about this issue and has loved ones suffering from illnesses that cannabis can treat, relieve or even help cure. Please take a moment and check your morals.

*Colin S.
Guilford, Connecticut*

Glaring Omission

I loved the 500th issue and applaud *High Times* for reaching a milestone that few magazines have achieved. However, I was a little disappointed that Michael Kennedy didn’t get more coverage. Kennedy was the driving force behind the magazine from Tom Forçade’s suicide in the late ‘70s up until his death in 2016. I can say with the utmost certainty that *HT* would not have published 500 issues without his guidance.

*Donny, B
Palo Alto, CA*

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Contact High

NORCAL WINNERS High Times brought the Cannabis Cup back to the Sonoma County Fairgrounds in Santa Rosa, CA and the competition was fierce. Behold the flower winners from the 2017 NorCal Cannabis Cup! Read more about this epic event, and check out all the winners, on page 105. Photos by Justin Cannabis



BANANA FIG #8
(Fig Farms)



WEDDING CAKE
(Greenwolf with Alien Labs and Seed Junkies)



III OG
(LA Kush in collaboration with CHR and Flight Farms)



MOTHER PUCKER
(Buds & Roses)



OREO COOKIES
(Zeki Farms)



BERT'S HONOR
(LA Kush in collaboration with CHR and Bert Baccarat)



L.A. SNOW
(Lumpy's Flowers)



ORANGE TREE
(Greenwolf with Green Line Organics)



VANISH
(Purple Frost Genetics)



CBD OG
(C.R.A.F.T.)



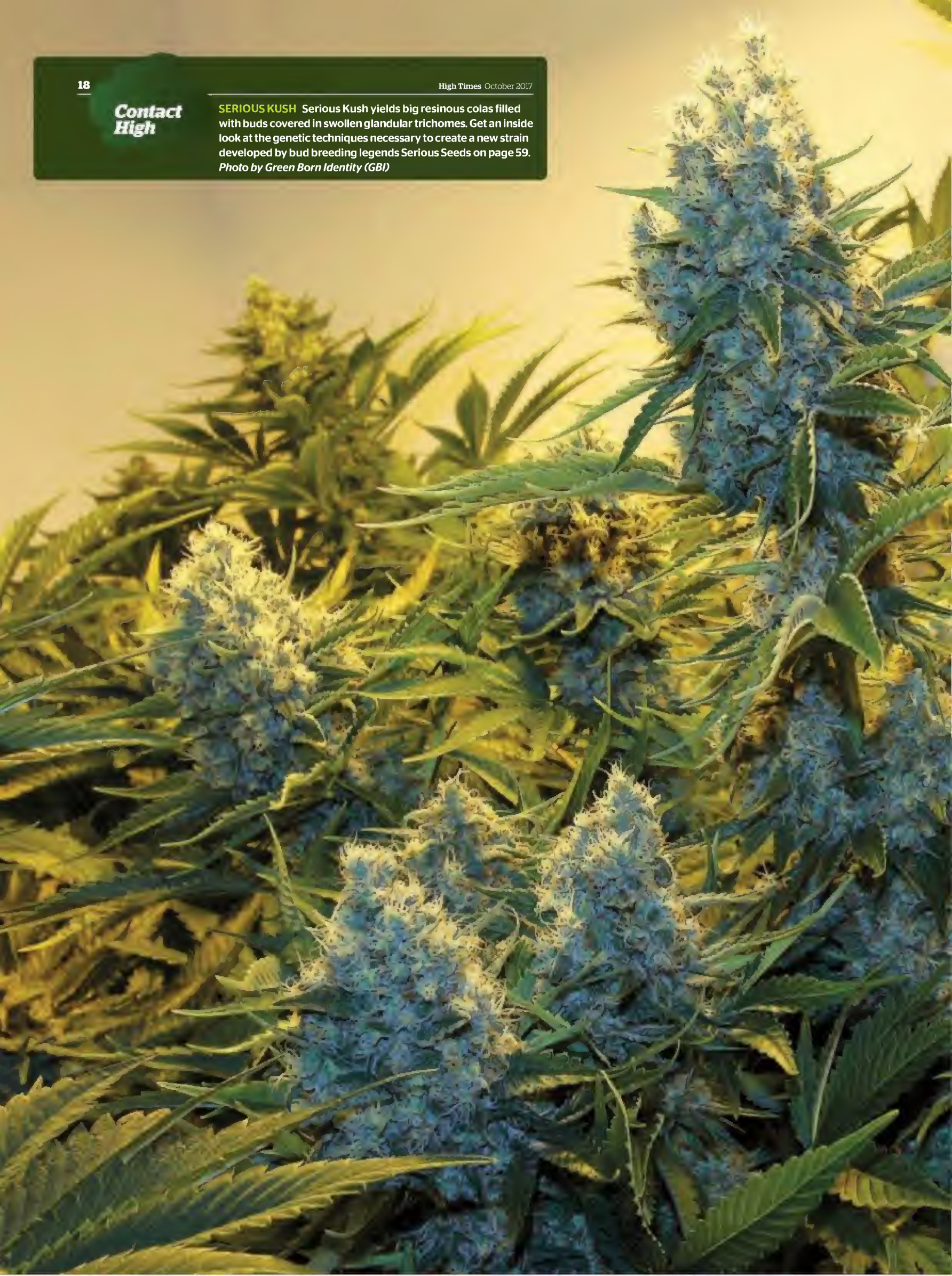
BLOOD ORANGE COOKIES
(Terraform Genetics)



3CAC/DC
(3C Farms)

**Contact
High**

SERIOUS KUSH Serious Kush yields big resinous colas filled with buds covered in swollen glandular trichomes. Get an inside look at the genetic techniques necessary to create a new strain developed by bud breeding legends Serious Seeds on page 59. *Photo by Green Born Identity (GBI)*







GIRL SCOUT COOKIES

SCOUT MASTER

SUNSET SHERBERT



SCOUT MASTER

XJ-13

OG KUSH

October 2017 *High Times*

HUMBOLDT'S FINEST BUDS Feast your eyes upon this gorgeous bounty of an organic and sustainable pot harvest from the collective of farmers known as Humboldt's Finest Cannabis. Find out more about the innovative techniques used to produce some of the best sun-grown cannabis in the world on page 74. *Photo by Justin Cannabis*

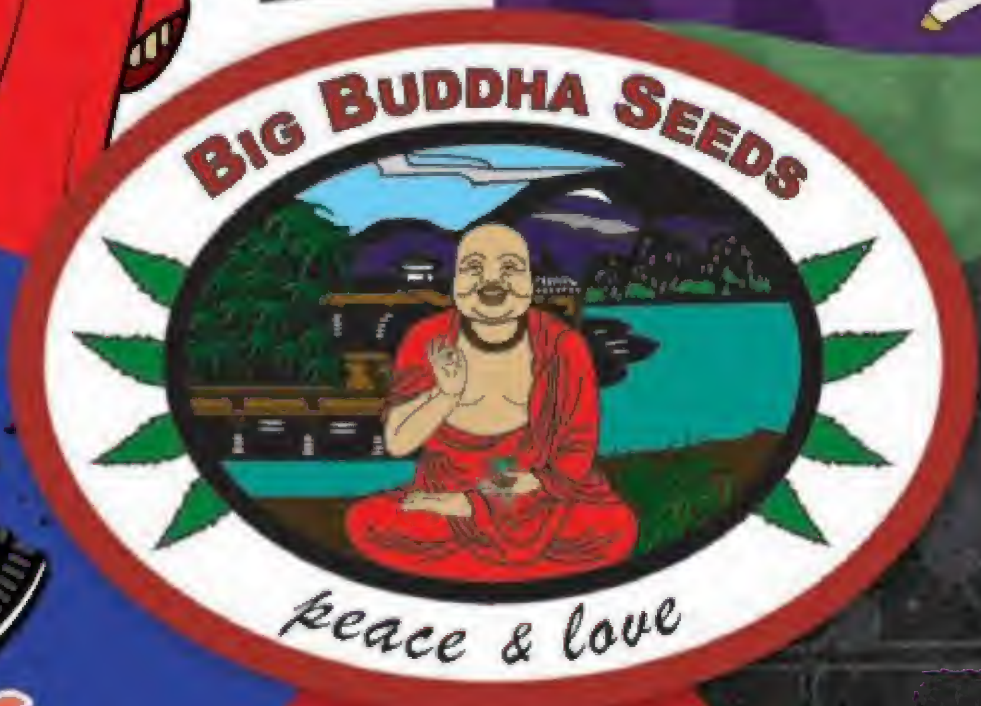
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Highwitness News

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Style

Celebrate Smoke

Celebration Pipes has produced unique smoking devices since 1973. See their latest creation! p.30



Entertainment

311

Omaha rockers 311 continue to carry the flag for cannabis after nearly 30 years together. p.32



the retrograde forces now in charge at the White House and the Justice Department.

The Small Business Tax Equity Act would repeal the onerous penalties and provisions that unfairly hit legal marijuana businesses, such as denying them the right to claim tax deductions and credits. Cannabusinesses are required to jump through an array of regulatory hoops as it is, and they already pay enough in damn taxes!

The Responsibly Addressing the Marijuana Policy Gap Act (admittedly a mouthful, and the acronym RAMPGA doesn't help much) aims to bridge the yawning gap between state and federal laws by removing federal criminal penalties and asset forfeiture for individuals and businesses who are in compliance with state law. And that's only the tip of this iceberg: The bill would also allow cannabis companies to use

banks just like every other business, and it would protect cannabis users from the current federal abuses of power, such as denying them public housing or financial aid for education, among other things. The bill would also relieve veterans and Native Americans from some of the idiotic punishments attendant to federal pot prohibition.

The Marijuana Revenue and Regulation Act would essentially make the business of cannabis much more like the business of alcohol or tobacco, but it would also respect the policies of those states that aren't quite ready for the green revolution.

Protecting the Legal-Pot States

A do-nothing Congress actually appears to be doing something to bridge the perverse chasm between state and federal marijuana laws. *By Mike DiPaola*

The news out of Washington, DC swings between gloomy and terrifying these days, but if you look closely, you'll see something encouraging: There are politicians—real, live politicians—who are doing the hard work necessary to solidify the gains of the pro-marijuana movement.

The Congressional Cannabis Caucus (it may take a while to get used to saying that) has introduced a suite of bills that will help protect both the consumers of weed and the businesses that produce and deliver it. These bills, as well as other legislative maneuvers throughout the country, appear to be a response to

« It's a good thing the country has some sane representation on the legislative side, since the executive branch is basically pond scum. The head of the Department of Justice, Attorney General Jeff Sessions, is sticking to his old-school drug-warrior guns, stating: "We need grown-ups in charge in Washington to say marijuana is... a very real danger."

Sessions has not yet done anything to roll back the marijuana movement's gains, but his dopey comments alone might already be obstructing further progress. For example, both Colorado and Alaska were poised to pass legislation that would allow marijuana consumption at clubs or dispensaries, but they've put it on hold over fears that it would antagonize the reactionary attorney general and his mercurial boss in the White House. (Maine is now also mulling whether to put its social-clubs legislation on hold.)

One would like to believe that the current spate of weed-friendly lawmaking is a reflection of the public will, as should be the case in a democracy. And there are data to back that up: Support for pot in the United States is at an all-time high, with 61 percent of the population favoring legalization. A CBS poll taken in late January noted a 5 percent jump in support over the previous year. Seventy-one percent of the people surveyed say

It's a good thing the country has some sane representation on the legislative side, since the executive branch is basically pond scum.

they want the federal government to butt out of states that have legalized pot, and 88 percent say they're for medical marijuana. Those numbers are huge.

The pro-weed pols are certainly aware that they have public opinion on their side. In a letter to the House Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies, founding Congressional Cannabis Caucus member Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA) requested that the subcommittee include language in its upcoming appropriations bill that would bar the Justice Department from prosecuting legal medical marijuana purveyors and users. "We believe such a policy is not only consistent with the wishes of a bipartisan majority of the members of the House," Rohrabacher wrote, "but also with the wishes of the American people." Forty-three representatives from both sides of the aisle co-signed the letter.

In another letter, this one to the departments of Justice and the Treasury, the governors of Alaska, Colorado, Oregon and Washington exhorted the Feds

to tread lightly and wisely when it comes to cannabis policy. "As governors of states that have legalized marijuana in some form, we ask the Trump administration to engage with us before embarking on any changes to regulatory and enforcement systems," the governors said.

In a separate appeal to the administration, Colorado Attorney General Cynthia Coffman, a Republican, invited Sessions and his staff to come to the Rocky Mountain State to see firsthand how the recreational pot industry works. The AG's office has expressed an interest in doing so.

Perhaps that's the best form of persuasion: demonstration rather than words. Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper was once an opponent of legalization, but now he's witnessed the benefits of freeing the green, including mitigating many of the worst effects of the War on Drugs. No doubt he likes the tax revenue too: The fact that legalization has put plenty of shekels in the public coffers only sweetens the pot. 🌿

HIGH FIVE by Mark Miller

Your Cannabis-Tax Dollars at Work

The revenue from state taxes on marijuana isn't just improving infrastructure, it's also improving lives.



Reducing Crime

In 2016, Alaska passed a bill directing half of the proceeds from the state's excise tax on commercial pot into programs intended to reduce the number of repeat criminal offenders. This year, \$3 million in reefer revenue (projected to increase to \$6 million in subsequent years) will bolster a fund to reduce recidivism rates by addressing the various issues associated with repeat offenses, such as substance abuse and domestic violence.



Protecting the Environment

California finally joined the ranks of the recreational pot states last year, and it plans to direct a portion of the expected \$1.2 billion in annual tax revenue to its Environmental Restoration and Protection Account. This money will be used to reverse the environmental impacts caused by illicit cannabis cultivation and to discourage illegal grows on public lands that damage the surrounding ecosystem.



Helping the Homeless

Colorado's new budget bill determines the distribution of the state's Marijuana Tax Cash Fund, which raked in \$105 million for the 2016-17 fiscal year. According to Money magazine, \$15.3 million of these funds will be used to establish "permanent supportive housing" and general assistance for the homeless and those "at risk" of losing their residences.



Supporting Health Care

In Washington State, more than 60 percent of the expected \$730 million in tax revenue collected from recreational pot sales over the next two years will be divided among the state's public-health programs, including Medicaid. According to reports, the marijuana-money boom will enable lawmakers to redistribute \$356 million that was previously used to pay the state's share of its Medicaid bill.



Funding Law Enforcement

Even law-enforcement agencies benefit from legal bud. In 2016, Oregon collected \$44 million in recreational pot revenue, and after the initial regulatory taxes were covered, 15 percent of the remainder was doled out to the state police, with another 10 percent going to each city and county law enforcement. That's 35 percent—or more than a third—of Oregon's leftover cannabis taxes being used to support the police.

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The Weed Biz Continues to Boom

Sales of recreational weed will surpass those of medical pot for the first time ever this year, predicts Marijuana Business Daily in its recently published *Marijuana Business Factbook 2017*, with total cannabis sales expected to top \$5 billion, up from \$4 billion in 2016. The *Factbook* offers an array of sales data and other information on the rapidly expanding industry, comparing the herb to other consumer products as points of reference. For example, people spend about four times as much on cannabis as they do on movie tickets, though only half as much as on beer, and nearly 20 times the combined sales of Viagra and Cialis. There are now more marijuana workers than there are bakers, and they will soon outnumber even telemarketers. The explosive growth in the industry thus far, and the potential for even more, has gotten the attention of investors. “The good news is that cannabis businesses will have more access to capital than in the past,” the *Factbook* concludes, “assuming the Trump administration doesn’t send a chill throughout the industry.”

Smuggler Cop Busted

A Seattle police officer has been charged with smuggling hundreds of pounds of weed to the East Coast. Alex Chapackdee, a 17-year veteran of the department, and his brother-in-law, Tuan Van Le, were nabbed along with two other men following an FBI investigation launched in 2015. According to the grand-jury indictment handed down in US District Court, Chapackdee was paid \$10,000 a month to “keep an eye on all of Tuan Van Le’s marijuana grow houses in Seattle and to provide law enforcement information.” The cop allegedly picked up another \$15,000 for every smuggling jaunt he made from Washington to points east. He had been under surveillance since at least 2016 via a camera hidden outside his Seattle apartment and was also being tracked by his cell-phone signal, which allegedly showed several cross-country trips. Chapackdee and his cohorts are looking at mandatory five-year prison sentences, on top of fines of up to \$5 million, if convicted. Money-laundering charges could tack on an additional 20 years and another \$250,000 in fines.

BREATH-TAKING TECHNOLOGY



A company in Oakland, California, has developed what it calls “the first technology to rapidly, accurately, and inexpensively detect and measure the levels of both marijuana and alcohol in a person’s breath.” Hound Labs Inc. has commenced clinical trials of its hand-held breathalyzer at the University of California, San Francisco, and expects to publish the results later this year. The product has attracted the attention of investors, including venture-capital heavyweight Benchmark, which backed the early development of Twitter, Uber, Instagram and other notable start-ups and is ponying up \$8.1 million. The buyers for Hound Labs’ new device would likely be police departments across the land, so we can’t in good conscience wish the company all the best in this endeavor.

Inside the Wide World of Weed



Mr. Marley steps up.

Higher Times

It’s official, High Times has been acquired by a group of entrepreneurs, cannabis pioneers and entertainment veterans—marking the company’s first change in ownership since its inception in 1974.

The new High Times Holding Company (HTHC), comprised of our Cannabis Cup events, a number of digital properties as well as the print publication in your hands, was purchased by an investment group with experience in media, entertainment, technology and, not least of all, cannabis.

The transaction was spearheaded by investment firm Orevia Capital and its founder Adam Levin. “To say we are bullish about the opportunities to expand High Times would be an understatement,” Levin enthused. “It has great brand equity and a solid audience base.”

Among the new investors is musician Damian ‘Jr. Gong’ Marley, co-founder of Stony Hill dispensaries (and composer of the album *Stony Hill*). “It is now an honor to be a part of the High Times legacy that I’ve been a fan of for so many years.”



Internal Revenue Shitheels

The Internal Revenue Service is determined to crack down on weed merchants, even in fully legal states like Colorado. Because cannabis, insofar as the federal government is concerned, is illegal under the Controlled Substances Act, pot businesses don’t get to enjoy the

perks of normal taxpayers, in particular the right to declare business expenses. Ground zero for IRS perfidy is Colorado, where G-men are exploiting information gleaned from the state’s Marijuana Enforcement Tracking Reporting & Compliance system, which is used to track marijuana plants from seed to sale statewide. The IRS is poking its nose into METRC records to identify “illegal” activities and deny deductions. According to the *Denver Post*, several cannabusinesses in the state are mounting a legal challenge to the Feds: The latest is Rifle Remedies, a medical pot business in Silt, which is petitioning to quash the IRS summonses for state records. “The IRS wants a situation where on the one hand, a person will not be prosecuted for violating CSA when selling state-legal marijuana, but, on the other hand, will have their business deductions denied,” the company’s motion says. “This is an Alice in Wonderland approach.”



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Slightly Less Selective Service

The Secret Service is looking to expand its ranks by some 3,000 agents in the coming years. To bolster the available candidate pool, the agency's new director, Trump appointee Randolph Alles, has said the Secret Service will ease up on restrictions that would have barred pot smokers in the past. "We need more people. The mission has changed," Alles said in his debut news conference.

Previously, applicants weren't eligible if they had used pot at the age of 23 or older; younger stoners could get in, but only if at least three years had passed since they last blazed. With the change in policy, applicants 24 and younger now must have only a year since their last smoke session; 28-year-olds need a five-year cushion. Applicants who have used ecstasy can still serve, but five years must have passed since their last rave; for coke users, it's 10 years.

National Standards for Pot Industry

The marijuana industry is growing at an unprecedented rate, and other than outright bans, regulations vary vastly between states, creating a complicated legal patchwork that can be difficult (and expensive) for startups or smaller companies to navigate. In June, the industry took a step toward standardization with the announcement of the National Association of Cannabis Businesses (NACB), the first self-regulatory organization (SRO) focused on cannabis. Their mission is to "support the compliance, transparency and growth of legal cannabis businesses in the U.S." and to "establish voluntary national standards that address critical issues such as advertising and financial integrity," according to the NACB.

The NACB is headed by former advisor to Joe Biden, Andrew Kline, as president and Joshua Laterman, a global financial and investment firm veteran, as CEO. They bring with them a team of experts and veterans from both inside and outside of the marijuana industry.

Founding members of the NACB include Buds & Roses, Etain, Green Dot Labs, Local Product of Colorado, Matrix NV, Mesa Organics and others.

TESTING-POSITIVE VIBRATIONS



More job applicants in the United States are testing positive for drugs, according to a report from the lab-analysis company Quest Diagnostics. The use of marijuana, cocaine, amphetamines and heroin are at their highest rates in more than a decade. States like Colorado, where the unemployment rate is well below the national average and (perhaps not coincidentally) marijuana has been legalized for adult use, are finding that the talent pool of potential employees is being further eroded by positive drug-test results for pot. "We have been tracking the trends in marijuana positivity in states that have passed medical and recreational marijuana use statutes for several years now," said Quest's director of science and technology, Barry Sample. "2016 is the first year since Colorado and Washington approved recreational use that the rates of year-over-year change were sharply higher than the national average."



American Exceptionalism

Americans lead the world in waking and baking. According to the 2017 Global Drug Survey of 29 drug-using countries, a whopping 21.9 percent of the Americans who smoke pot torch one up within an hour of getting out of bed. The United States was followed by Mexico and Greece, with 18.4 and 15.9 percent wake-and-bakers, respectively. Americans also vape more than the people of other nations, and are the least likely to be mixing tobacco into their herb. The last bit of data inspired the founder and managing director of the Global Drug Survey, Adam R. Winstock, to extend his kudos: "Congratulations America. Don't worry about your leader, fake news and the endless incredulous headlines that will no doubt follow in the coming months, it's time to celebrate your position as the world's most enlightened and healthy users of cannabis." U-S-A! U-S-A!

Study: CBD Reduces Seizures

Cannabidiol can reduce seizures in children with Dravet syndrome, according to a new study discussed in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. Dravet syndrome, a rare lifelong form of epilepsy that begins in infancy, is characterized by frequent and prolonged seizures. The study, based on 120 subjects in multiple locations, is the first large-scale randomized, placebo-controlled clinical trial. The results showed that the CBD subjects' seizures were reduced by 39 percent compared with the placebo group (although adverse effects, such as fatigue and vomiting, also increased with CBD). "It's a landmark study in many ways," said lead investigator Dr. Orrin Devinsky, director of the Comprehensive Epilepsy Center at the NYU Langone Medical Center in New York City, speaking to *Medscape Medical News*. "People have been prescribing cannabis products for epilepsy for 4,000 years from historical records, and for the first time we actually have scientific evidence that a compound from cannabis works."



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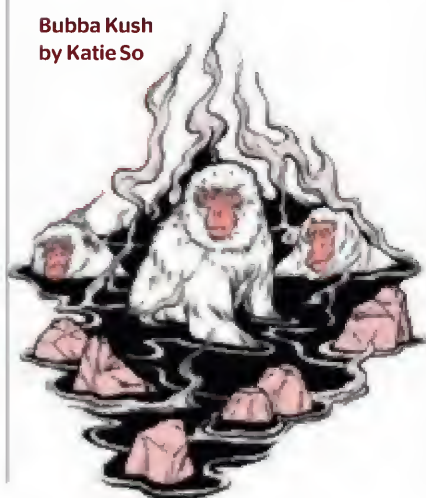
The legendary Jamaican strain Lamb's Bread, as envisioned by UK artist Joe Wilson.



CREATIVE BY DESIGN

A dynamic new collaboration between the cannabis industry and the arts community, 1964 Supply Co. launched its inaugural line with a limited-edition series created by nine world-renowned illustrators, tattoo artists, animators and sculptors. Each artist sampled the strain they were designing the packaging for and then created work inspired by their experience. The gorgeous, detailed artwork for strains like Blue Dream and Lamb's Bread by UK illustrator Joe Wilson, or Bubba Kush

Bubba Kush
by Katie So



by Vancouver-based tattoo artist Katie So, makes this series uber-collectible.

The cannabis itself is sustainably grown in 100 percent organic soil using absolutely no synthetic chemicals, pesticides or fungicides. The flowers, oil cartridges and pre-rolls come in three kinds of kind: Lift (*sativa*), Flow (*indica*) and Tune (CBD)—a branding strategy that has become increasingly common among cannabis companies appealing to newer consumers. 1964 Supply Co. has orchestrated an eye-opening intersection of great weed and great art for its first foray into the world of legal marijuana. suppliedby1964.com



Girl Scout Cookies Thin Mint by
Jeremy Fish

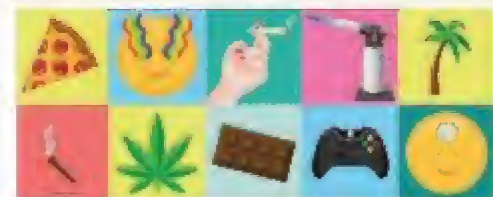


SPOTLIGHT

THE CELEBRATION PIPE

This deluxe pipe wouldn't be out of place in the hands of one of the hobbits or dwarves from *The Lord of the Rings*. Each lava-stoneware piece is individually sculpted, fired twice, and plated with precious metals and lusters. A Shire-dwelling creature would surely be pleased with the golden details reflecting the glow of a well-packed bowl, as will any marijuana-loving mortal.

The Celebration Pipe was created by company founder Da Piper as a Christmas stocking stuffer back in 1973—and the very next spring, he became a founding advertiser in *High Times*. Since then, one-of-a-kind Celebration Pipes have been crafted for legendary artists like Bob Marley, Willie Nelson, Arlo Guthrie, Jefferson Starship, and many others. For the full story behind the Celebration Pipe, check out the company's website. celebrationpipes.com



HERBAL HIEROGLYPHS

KushMoji is a free weed-themed emoji keyboard that connects cannabis companies with weed lovers through branded emojis that link back to the companies' websites. Cannabis companies can't use traditional digital-marketing techniques on social-media platforms like Facebook because pot products are still flagged as "inappropriate" content. That's where KushMoji comes in: The app offers an advertising platform for cannabis brands, while giving users access to an entire emoji library of products, with an interactive element that provides pricing information, reviews and more. It's a marriage of marijuana and tech that will appeal to anyone who uses their emoji keyboard more than they actually type out "Let's get baked." kushmoji.io



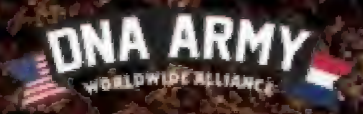
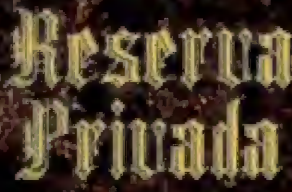
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Fighting the Good Fight

311 watches their grassroots thrive. *By Kyle Eustice*

On a luxury cruise ship somewhere in the middle of the Caribbean, 311 vocalist Nick Hexum disguised himself as a ninja for the ceremonial costume-night portion of the annual 311 Caribbean Cruise, giving him a rare opportunity to experience the band's fans at their most unfiltered. As he navigated the sea of spirited people, he recalls being moved by the love and acceptance he felt emanating from the crowd.

"Nobody knew it was me, so I just mingled," Hexum says from his home in Topanga Canyon, California. "They were like, 'Hey, it's a ninja!' It was just such a cool

vibe. I always knew my fan base was awesome, but to have that was really special."

311's insanely devoted followers have carried the Omaha natives from obscurity to multi-platinum-selling-artist status. Hexum, bassist Aaron "P-Nut" Wills and drummer Chad Sexton were just teenagers when they formed the band back in 1988. MC/vocalist Doug "SA" Martinez and guitarist Tim Mahoney joined the group shortly thereafter, and the five young musicians stumbled onto their signature sound after bonding over a mutual love of reggae, hip-hop and punk rock.

When they started playing out for the first time, magic happened. 311 performed some of their earliest shows at the Ranch Bowl, a now-defunct Omaha venue where their fan base began to plant its roots.

"When we first played together, it was just like this explosion in my frontal lobe," Hexum says. "We played with so much energy, and it felt so explosive and free that I knew we could go really far with it. What was nice about the Omaha crowd was, they were willing to get into us just as much as any national band. There wasn't a lot of preconceived notions about the

Omaha scene back then. For us, it was a wide-open map."

311's path eventually led the group to Los Angeles, where they nabbed a record deal with Capricorn Records. Following their 1993 debut *Music*, 311 affirmed their kinship with cannabis culture with the release of their second album, *Grassroots*. Marijuana has always been an underlying current pushing the band to new creative heights and providing a cause they could believe in. It all started at the 1991 Hemp Fest, a pro-marijuana music festival held in downtown Omaha—one that Hexum remembers like it was yesterday.

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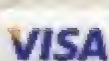
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“There were cops everywhere,” the married father of three says. “We didn’t get to smoke because the cops were watching. I went on a fairly long tirade about the hypocrisy of these politicians with their martinis, prescription drugs and cigarettes, and how they were trying to keep a safe alternative away from us. I remember the cops just glaring at me. That was ballsy for the day—and it was just a dream for what was finally going to happen. We’ve been keeping the culture going in our own way; it’s always music *and* cannabis for us.”

P-Nut, who lives in Pasadena, CA, with his wife and two boys, recalls a time when dirt weed was sometimes the only thing available—especially in the band’s home state. “It was nearly impossible to find anything quality in Omaha back then,” he says. “But even in Los Angeles... I remember when I first moved out here, I would drive 90 miles to get a quarter-ounce of good bud, and I’d be stoked about it. In the lean days,

“It’s just heartwarming to see people who have carried the flag of cannabis for so long, even at a time when you were really at risk. Whether it’s *High Times*, Cypress Hill or 311, we’ve been fighting the good fight forever.”

we made it last a long time and were real appreciative of the quality. Now I think everyone is totally spoiled,” he adds with a laugh. “The good thing is, the prices are going down... but the world of concentrates is the world I’m in.”

Fortunately, 311 are now the purveyors of the 311 Grassroots Uplifter, a disposable vape pen that’s changed the game not only for P-Nut, but for countless other connoisseurs.

“There was a lack of something consistent in the marketplace,” P-Nut explains. “It was also a way to expand our brand. It’s a dream come true... the 18-year-old versions of us would be high-fiving each other.”

Not surprisingly, 311’s relationship with *High Times*

also stretches back to the early ’90s, when the band was routinely featured in the magazine. With *High Times* recently celebrating its 500th issue (Sept. ’17), Hexum expressed a measure of awe at the magazine’s well-deserved longevity.

“It’s just heartwarming to see people who have carried the flag of cannabis for so long, even at a time when you were really at risk,” he says. “Whether it’s *High Times*, Cypress Hill or 311, we’ve been fighting the good fight forever. It was such a big

deal to get to find out about cannabis from the magazine, because there was no internet [back then]. That was our only source on how to grow, the different names or what the strains look like. And the chart *High Times* had in the back—311 was in there consistently every month. When we first appeared there, we couldn’t believe it... it was a kind of validation.”

SA recalls flying to New York City for a show in 1994 and doing his first interview with *High Times*. “We smoked so much weed that day,” he says fondly. “I don’t think Nick and I had ever smoked that much weed. We were so high by the time the show started we didn’t know how to begin the show. We decided we better start with ‘Fuck the Bullshit’ and go hard because we were so stoned [laughs].”

As 311 prepares to release their 12th studio album, *Mosaic*, its title and cover art—composed of nearly 10,000 microscopic photos of the band’s fans—tell a deeper story.

“We thought that was a perfect title, because our music is a mosaic of so many different styles,” Hexum explains. “We’ve always wanted no limits. What 311 is today is not just a band—it’s a community that we’ve created. [The album cover] points to all the good things that are unique about us, and the music has a more wild creativity because it has more of a cannabis flavor to it.”

“Marijuana is natural,” P-Nut concludes. “It’s not these weird chemicals that people are creating in labs and making one molecule off so it’s legal. Fuck that—give people weed!” ✨



A Toker’s Evolution

P-Nut starts his day with a *sativa* concentrate, transitions to a hybrid in the afternoon, and winds down with an *indica* extract at night—a regimen that has served him well since he gave up smoking flowers four years ago.

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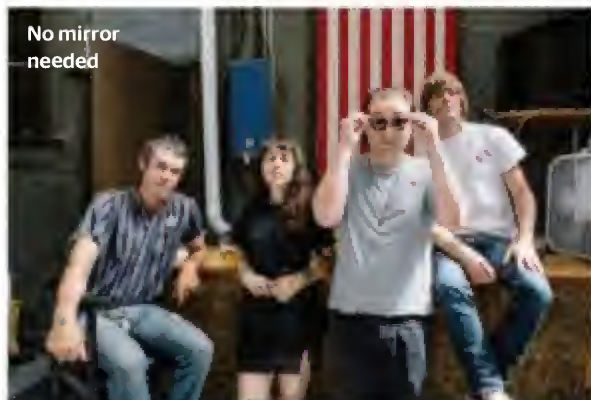
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Pride Goeth Before a Squall

Brooklyn punks shift focus but stay wild.

Though Brooklyn's **Vanity** bill their sophomore LP, a follow-up to their excellent 2015 album *Vain in Life*, as a departure from the ragged, street-punk-inflected stomp that marked their debut, I deeply doubt that fans of that album will feel let down. Back then, Vanity claimed to be an Oi! band, but their loose-limbed, fuzzy jangle and clattery, Kenney Jones–style drumming read as more sped-up “Poolhall Richard” than straight-ahead *Shock Troops*.

Don't Be Shy finds the band continuing to look to the working-class rock of the '70s for inspiration, from the gappy Ron Wood lick right outta Rod Stewart's “Sweet Little Rock 'n' Roller” that introduces album opener “You'll Never Matter Much to Them,” to the chiming “Gasoline Alley” outro of the aptly titled “Pounding Boogie” and the “Debris”-channeling wistfulness of the stand-out acoustic instrumental “A Moment's Peace.”

Later decades also prove influential, as in the title track, which comes in hot with a fantastic, sweetly needling super-repeater guitar figure over a wide-open hi-hat and rapid, slapping 4/4 beat, and is magnified midpoint by a watery, frenetic rhythm-guitar part that recalls “Leave Them All Behind” by early-'90s shoe-gaze lords Ride.

Make no mistake, though: Over all of this is a sheen

that's unique to our fraught moment—the aforementioned Woody lick, for example, practically evaporates into a dissipated, almost childishly sung chorus that, like the album's hooky, disaffected closer “Let's Keep Drinking,” could only be from this decade. Vanity was originally the project of vocalist/guitarist Evan Radigan and guitarist Colman Durkee; although the latter co-wrote this album, he left before it was recorded to pursue a career in social work. Radigan, whose vocals here are appealingly strained without sounding raw, has soldiered on in the ensuing months. Here's hoping he raises a new army for album number three. *Polly Watson*



VANITY
Don't Be Shy
(Katorga Works)

MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS



Dead Cross
Dead Cross
(Ipecac/Three One G)

With a lineup that includes Faith No More's Mike Patton, ex-Slayer drummer Dave Lombardo, the Locust's Justin Pearson and Retox's Michael Crain, Dead Cross are a supergroup with a need for speed. Their debut is a 28-minute blitzkrieg of hardcore propelled by Lombardo's fleet-footed blasts

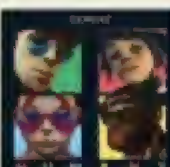
and offset by Patton's wailing, maniacal vocal layers. Rippers like “Shillelagh” and “Idiopathic” screech by in under three minutes apiece, while the band ventures into more gloriously bizarre territory on “Gag Reflex” and a doomy cover of Bauhaus' classic “Bela Lugosi's Dead.” Killer stuff. *J. Bennett*



Moral Panic
Moral Panic
(Slovenly)

Ten tracks of simple, garagey punk that recalls peak New Bomb Turks in its savagery. Even coming out of shitty computer speakers, these brief tunes squall and tear and completely overcome such occasionally stale (or timeless) titles/themes as “Smoke/Drink” and “Ripped Jeans.” The speed never

varies, the vocalist has a three-note range, and yet I was just as stoked with this album on the fifth listen as I was when the digital needle dropped on it the first time. The overall effect is that of a hand squeezing your heart for 22 minutes and releasing long enough to let ya get a breath to go again. *Polly Watson*



Gorillaz
Humanz
(Parlophone)

The satisfyingly bombastic *Humanz* could also be called *Too Many Cooks*. Featuring a whopping 25 guest artists spread over 20 tracks, *Humanz* plays like a collection of singles produced by Damon Albarn. The album is not without its highlights, including the Grace Jones punk rocker “Charger,” the

Journey-esque “We Got the Power” and the lo-fi groove of “Andromeda.” Ironically, *Humanz* finally takes a breath on “Busted and Blue,” the lone tune featuring the band itself. Soaring and sorrowful, it reminds us that this enduring supergroup works best when they keep things simple. *Tommy Smith*



Bonobo
Migration
(Ninja Tune)

Since the early 2000s, Bonobo's breezy electronica has been a steadfast fixture of the genre—tracks from his groundbreaking *Black Sands* can still be heard in trendy restaurants. Layered with jazzy hooks mashed with syncopated drumming, *Migration* sometimes risks homogenizing songs with its

lavish production quality. But the album is never less than engrossing, especially the thump of standout “Outlier” and the catchy vocal loops of “Bambro Koyo Ganda.” *Migration* wins the award as the season's best soundtrack for driving down the coast while thinking wistfully of your ex. *Tommy Smith*

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS



In Search of the Lost Chord: 1967 and the Hippie Idea
Danny Goldberg
(Akashic Books)

Teenage hippie Danny Goldberg experienced an epiphany during a late-'60s acid trip: He had “permission” to be happy. Rejecting social rigidity, Goldberg followed his heart and became a top businessman in rock music, a political activist and author. His analysis of what it meant to be a hippie in

1967—sans cartoon clichés—recounts the pursuit of wisdom and joy, as well as a crazy quilt of counterculture cool. And despite the demarcation insisted on by some, he shows that spirituality, activism and business are not incompatible. Best line: “1967 is a trip millions of people took together.” *Michael Simmons*

PRODUCT OF AMSTERDAM

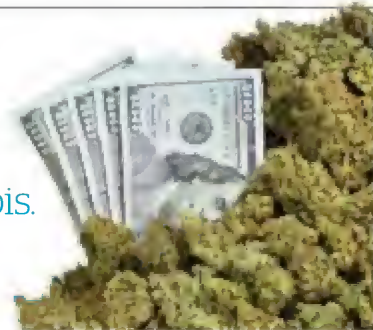
SIMPLY HEMP.



The NFL's Pot Problem

It's time to end the league's bruising, misguided policy toward cannabis.

J. J. McCoy is senior editor for New Frontier Data



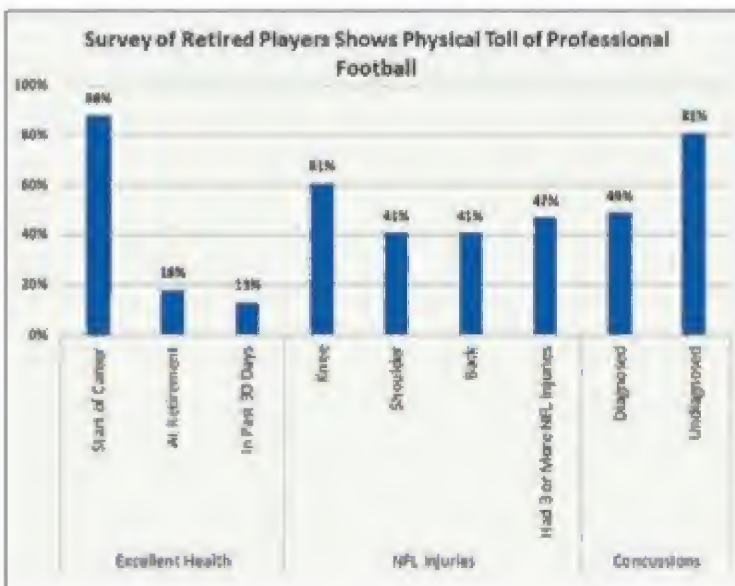
FOR DECADES, PROFESSIONAL football players have habitually treated pain after games and practice sessions with everything from beers to over-the-counter anti-inflammatories or powerful prescription painkillers. The NFL's dependence on drugs for pain management has drawn the attention of law enforcement, has been the subject of a federal lawsuit and is under investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration.

How bad has it gotten? Consider that in a given season, the league overall averages a 100 percent injury rate: Even a team's backups and third-stringers get hurt. Those casualties add up over time, with predictable results. A 2011 survey of more than 600 retired players by the Washington University School of Medicine (funded by ESPN) found that they used opioids at an overall rate four times that of the general US population. And no other major professional sport features so many outspoken proponents of cannabis's medicinal qualities, which makes sense given that no other sport is so closely associated with pain and injury.

As noted in New Frontier Data's "The Cannabis Industry Annual Report: 2017 Legal Marijuana Outlook," Kannalife, a company founded in 2010, holds an exclusive license with the National Institutes of Health for the commercialization of US patent #6630507 (a cannabis patent held by the US government). Kannalife is focused on developing cannabis-based neuroprotective medicines for the treatment of hepatic encephalopathy and chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE).

As football fans and anyone who saw the 2014 feature film *Concussion* know, CTE has gained heightened visibility in recent years due to the number of current and former NFL players and other athletes who have been diagnosed with diseases linked to concussive impacts.

With increased public pressure to address the frequency of CTE and the abuse of prescription painkillers, the National Football League Players Association is looking to involve players'



A survey of more than 600 retired players by the Washington University School of Medicine found that they used opioids at an overall rate four times that of the general US population.

families in the push for enlightened change in the NFL's marijuana policy. While major obstacles remain, there is a definite movement in pro-football circles to change the way that cannabis is perceived and regulated by the league, which currently includes it on its list of banned substances.

Last spring, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said that he opposes letting players use pot recreationally, but that he is willing to listen to the league's medical advisers on its potential value as a medicine. "To date," Goodell insisted, "they haven't said, 'This is a change we think you should make that's in the best interests of the health and safety of our players.' If they do, we're certainly going to consider that."

But critics say that Goodell and the NFL have in fact been dragging their heels due to political and business pressure. The Trump administration's mixed messages about cannabis policy, combined with the ubiquitous (and highly profitable) ads that promote alcohol and various pharmaceutical drugs

during NFL games, represent a serious financial incentive to maintain the status quo.

Conversely, advocates say that cannabis provides a far safer and healthier alternative for players, who have long understood how medical marijuana can deliver the relief they seek for sore backs, knees and shoulders, or to help mitigate their frequent headaches and sleepless nights.

In an interview with New Frontier Data, former NFL player Boo

Williams opined that much of the NFL's resistance to reforming its cannabis policy is due to corporate pressure, notably from the alcohol and pharmaceutical industries. "There's going to be loss of profit from competition," he said, if the legalization of adult-use cannabis leads to fans replacing their Budweiser with buds, or their Miller Lites with lighting up. But Williams also noted the league's disingenuous policy when it comes to public-service announcements versus actual deeds. "You see the NFL saying 'Don't drink and drive,'" Williams said, "yet half the stadium has been tailgating, and you don't see any roadblocks set up coming out of the stadium."

Such issues relating to the NFL are, of course, also areas of continued research by New Frontier Data, which will be publishing further reports on cannabis and its applications regarding CTE and PTSD for professional athletes and veterans of the military, along with the projected market effects on the alcohol and pharmaceutical industries. Stay tuned for more. ✨

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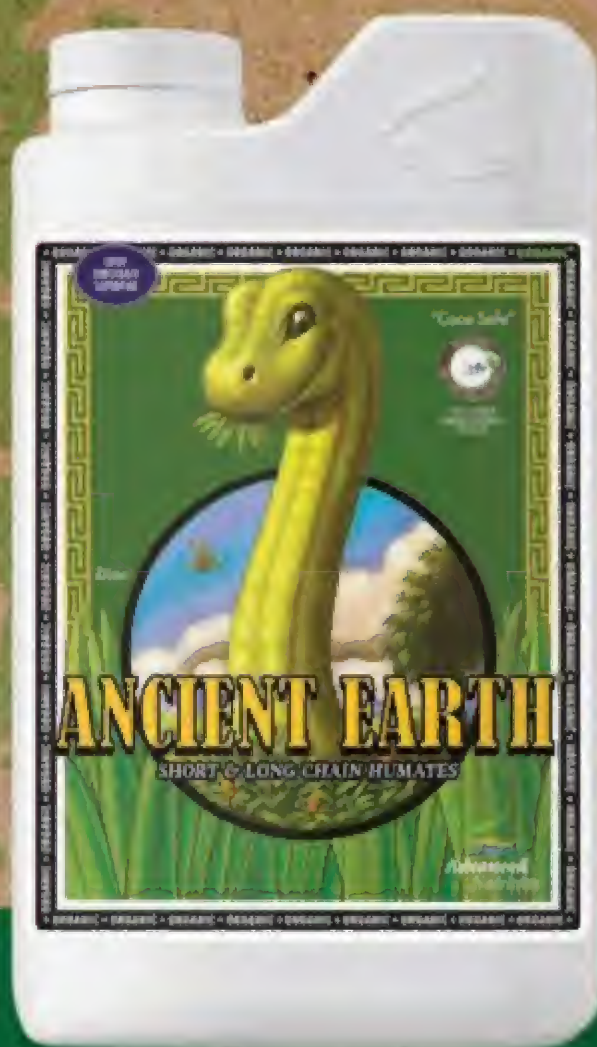
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-Salt Lake City, UT

(Gorilla Glue #4)
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-New York, NY

MARKET ANALYSIS

Prices by the ounce

Nationwide pot prices on average are slightly lower as THMQ enters the final quarter of 2017. The US Price Index fell below its previous month's average due to declining prices in the West, where legal cannabis dominates the market. Pre-fall harvest prices in the East were up \$3 per ounce from their previous average, while the South held steady at \$370 an ounce.

US Price Index

YTD Average: \$332



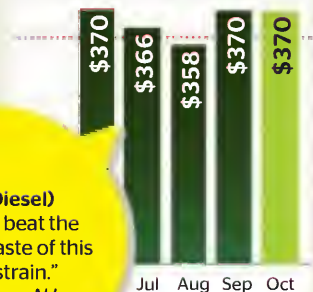
Eastern Index

YTD Average: \$354



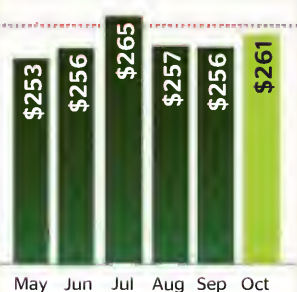
Southern Index

YTD Average: \$363



Western Index

YTD Average: \$264



(Sour Diesel)
"You can't beat the smell and taste of this classic strain."
-Hoboken, NJ

TRANS HIGH MARKET QUOTATIONS

STATE	CITY	STRAIN	PRICE
ALABAMA	Mobile	Sour Cheese	\$280
ALASKA	Fairbanks	Girl Scout Cookies	280
ARKANSAS	Benton	Golden Goat	420
ARIZONA	Phoenix	Gorilla Glue	200
CALIFORNIA	La Mesa San Francisco	Gorilla Glue #1 Cherry Cookies	240 280
COLORADO	Boulder	Durban Berry	260
CONNECTICUT	South Windsor	Bianca	320
FLORIDA	Clearwater Doral	Sour Diesel Skunk OG	400 425
GEORGIA	Duluth	Moonrock	425
IDAHO	Shelbyville	Master OG	350
ILLINOIS	Chicago	Purple Kush	450
INDIANA	Indianapolis	Purple Alien OG	420
KENTUCKY	Paducah	Pineapple Express	430
LOUISIANA	New Orleans	Strawberry Cough	420
MAINE	Ellsworth	Hash Plant	280
MARYLAND	Baltimore	Trainwreck	420
MICHIGAN	Ypsilanti	Kosher Tangie Kush	350
MISSOURI	St. Louis	Headband	360
MONTANA	Kalispell	Northern Lights	220
NEBRASKA	Omaha	Girl Scout Cookies	250
NEVADA	Las Vegas	Tangie Cookies	320
NEW JERSEY	Hoboken	Sour Diesel	300
NEW MEXICO	Santa Fe	Blue Dream	320
NEW YORK	New York	Gorilla Glue #4	420
NORTH CAROLINA	Greenville	Sour Diesel	275
OHIO	Delaware	White Berry	375
OKLAHOMA	Tulsa	Fruity Pebbles	320
OREGON	Bend	Obama Kush	220
PENNSYLVANIA	Pittsburgh	Gorilla Glue #4	400
RHODE ISLAND	Providence	Snowbud	288
SOUTH CAROLINA	Greenville	Ghost Train Haze	400
TENNESSEE	Memphis	Sour Apple	300
TEXAS	Dallas Houston	Deadhead OG Skywalker OG	400 420
UTAH	Salt Lake City	Tangie	300
VERMONT	Brattleboro	Green Mountain	390
WASHINGTON	Seattle Vancouver	Black Russian Alien Candy	220 235
WISCONSIN	Kenosha	Lemon Kush	320
INTERNATIONAL			
CANADA	Toronto	Kosher Kush	\$C160
	Victoria	Super Silver Haze Space Bomb	170 C190

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How to Get a Pot Job



Trimming is a good way to get your foot in the door at a cannabusiness.

Thanks to legalization in eight states and medical-cannabis programs in more than half the country, marijuana jobs are booming. So whether you're new to the field or a growroom veteran with years of experience to offer, *High Times* has the advice you need to open doors and get started. *By Jen Bernstein*



Many cannabusinesses hire seasonal help for harvests.

Are you looking for a job or hoping to start a new career? If you're ready to join one of the fastest-growing industries in the country—whose success has already been likened to the explosive growth of the dot-com boom in the 1990s—consider seeking employment in the cannabis industry. With eight legal-marijuana states, and more than half of the states in the country allowing for some kind of medical cannabis use, there are tons of jobs being created in an industry transitioning out of the black market. And the money being made is considerable: According to New Frontier, a leading cannabis analytics and research firm,

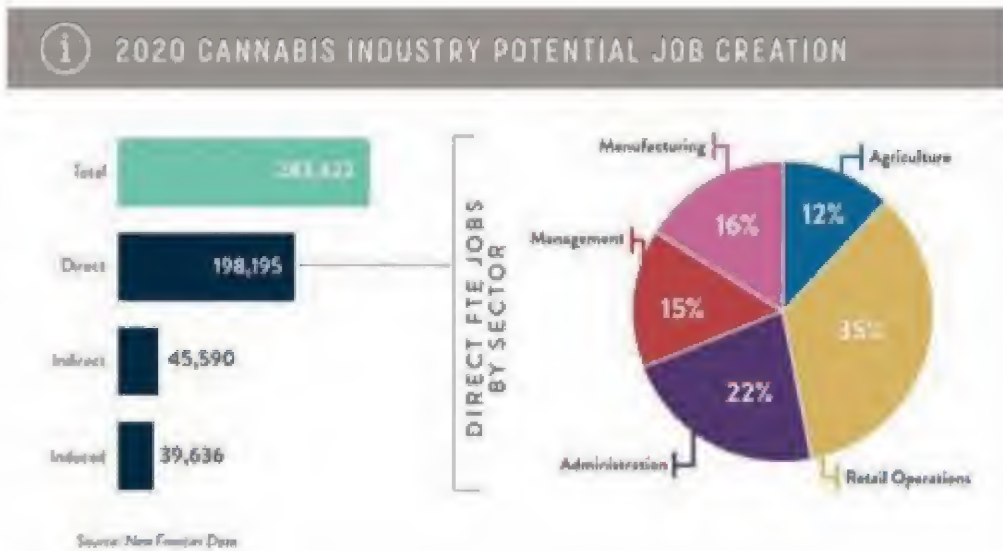
the legal-marijuana industry, which was worth an estimated \$6.5 billion in 2016, will be worth \$24 billion by 2025; the medical market alone is estimated to reach \$13.2 billion by that time.

Since the road to legalization follows no single path or model, determining the number of jobs created as a way to show growth can be difficult. In fact, the US Bureau of Labor Statistics doesn't even recognize jobs created by the cannabis industry due to pot's continued illegality on the federal level. However, thanks to reporting from the Marijuana Policy Group (MPG), an analysis of Colorado's cannabis industry showed that legalization brought 18,000 new jobs to the state—13,000 of those full-time

positions. Of these newly created jobs, retail accounted for more than 35 percent. However, administrative (22 percent) and agricultural (12 percent) also made up a significant portion of those jobs.

Using MPG's model of growth in Colorado, New Frontier estimates that recreational and medical cannabis programs could easily create 280,000 jobs nationwide by 2020. Additionally, if more states come on board with medical or adult-use cannabis legislation and industrialized hemp takes off, then these numbers could well be significantly higher.

Where other industries are failing, cannabis is thriving, and workers from other fields are increasingly seeking marijuana-related jobs. Employment in agriculture, manufacturing and utilities are all down, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. As a result, many skilled workers can be found transferring their experience and putting it to good use in the cannabis industry. Agricultural experience is highly valued, and the ability to grow cannabis is always a plus. Cultivation is actually a great entry point for individuals who are eager to be hands-on and learn on the job. Such workers are very valuable to large-scale cannabis growers, who typically ramp up their staffing during the planting and harvest seasons. Come harvest time, you'll be cashing in on lots of green.



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Budtender jobs are highly coveted.

According to data from *leafly.com*, thanks to legalization, 123,000 full-time positions have been created in the United States thus far. California, which was already the largest cannabis producer in the country, created an estimated 43,374 full-time jobs.

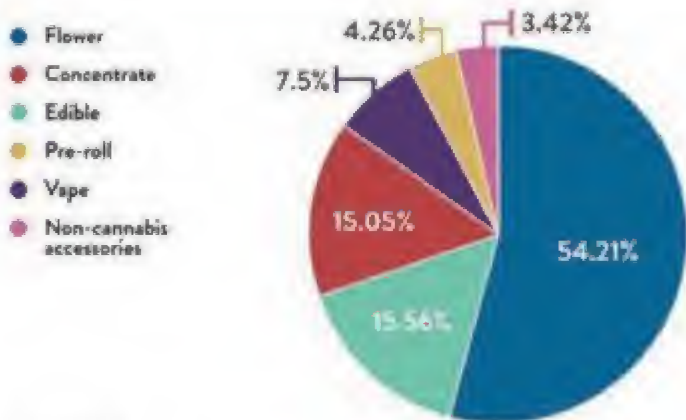
Ideally, the national press would blast headlines like “Legalization Spurs Job Growth” or “Unemployment Numbers Down Thanks to Cannabis,” if only to annoy our 45th president and his

drug-warrior-stacked administration, whose attitude toward marijuana differs greatly from that of the public at large, where the majority support legalization. But peering into our cannabis crystal ball, the future looks bright nonetheless, with four new adult-use states and six newly approved medical programs being voted into existence in 2016 alone. It certainly appears that the industry is far too entrenched for the clock to turn back. States that have implemented

recreational sales have seen the incredible value of legal cannabis through the flood of tax revenue created. That money has been a boon to previously underfunded infrastructure and education programs, and it’s hard to imagine state governments wanting to part with all that much-needed cash.

What can we expect as we move into 2018? Job seekers should check out the employment scene in states that are expanding their medical programs, like Pennsylvania and Ohio, as well as states like California—the most populous in the nation—where recreational sales will begin in 2018. Potential ganjapreneurs should take note of recent New Frontier data, which shows the most growth in delivery services and in the demand for flowers (54 percent), edibles (15.6 percent) and concentrates (15 percent). Following market research can help you prepare for and take advantage of the latest trends. Fortunately, the cannabis-data industry is growing quickly as well, providing aspiring cannabis-business-people with the tools they need to stay on top of market movements.

i 2016 PRODUCT CATEGORY MARKET SHARE



Source: GreenFork

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Ganjapreneurs: In Their Own Words

David Bernstein, CEO of weedhire.com, weighs in on the current state of the job market, which businesses are hiring and the best states to set your sights on.

What we've seen with jobs in the cannabis industry is an evolution—you could even say maturity. Businesses that were startups two years ago and faced with so many obstacles have begun to staff as developed businesses, and this seems to mirror the industry growth as a whole.

We are definitely seeing more jobs tied to management, operations and regulatory compliance. Now more than ever, there are opportunities for experienced management personnel from other industries to work in cannabis. Because these experienced businesses can now rely on consistent revenue, it means qualified individuals can even make an income

comparable to what they previously made in other industries.

Job functions like project management, environmental compliance and supply-chain logistics are all areas that have become more prevalent than ever before in the legal cannabis industry.

There are still many jobs tied to sales and manufacturing, such as budtenders, growers and trimmers, but as states like Colorado, Washington and even California fine-tune their regulations, businesses are tasked with staffing up to ensure that they can meet these ever-changing regulations. Because of this, we are also seeing an uptick in hiring for accounting and legal to ensure regulatory compliance.

In the new recreational states like Nevada, the growth in jobs overall has increased and will continue to grow and expand as sales began July 1. Hopefully, more clarity will come from the new administration on the federal government's overall position, but until then, the industry will continue to work toward maturity and stability.

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Edibles and tinctures now make up a bigger portion of the cannabis industry market share.

Scott Giannotti, managing director of the Cannabis World Congress & Business Exposition and founder of New York's Cannabis and Hemp Association, breaks down the growing field of hemp and where and how to get involved.

The hemp industry is exploding, and by 2020 analysts are projecting a surge of \$2 billion to \$3 billion a year from the \$600 million market in 2017. The fast-growing segment of the market—CBD hemp oil, currently estimated at \$125 million to \$150 million per year—is expected to triple in size, swelling to a robust \$450 million to \$500 million by 2020.

Job seekers can expect to find work in the hemp market in the following areas: extracting for CBD hemp oil, business development (sales), marketing and farming. What

makes hemp farming different from cannabis farming is that growing hemp is truly agriculture, using farming technology and methods, whereas growing marijuana is akin to horticulture.

For people looking to get their foot in the door, a great thing would be to find out who is growing hemp in your state and ask to volunteer on the farm with planting and harvesting. Another possibility is becoming a sales rep for a CBD company: Find out if anyone in your state is manufacturing CBD hemp-oil products and look for a job in packing, shipping or sales. Because hemp is still just a \$600-million-a-year industry, jobs are hard to find—but they are coming, so the best thing to do right now is to get educated on the hemp industry and find out which segments interest you most.

Five Ways to Get Your Foot in the Door

CREATE A CANNABIS-SPECIFIC RÉSUMÉ

Regardless of whether you have cannabis-specific experience, create a résumé that details your relevant skills. If you have management training and you're applying to run a dispensary, or have worked at a nursery and possess a great green thumb, then outlining such employment skills is a must. The same is true if your experience was pre-legalization or in a state that currently has a medical marijuana program. No job is too small to list: If you trimmed dozens of pounds of weed during harvest, you have valuable training and hands-on experience that will be attractive to dispensary managers looking to fill such a role. Keep your résumé up to date and use *LinkedIn* as a tool to help employers to find you.

MOVE IT

If you're living in a non-legal state, you'll have to be prepared to move to a place where there's job availability. Job sites like *WeedHire* (weedhire.com), Ms. Mary Staffing (msmarystaffing.com) and *420careers.com* list all of the most current jobs available by state.

TEMP TO FULL-TIME POSITIONS

As in any new company or industry, full-time positions are sometimes hard to come by. Companies in start-up mode may not have the financial means to hire you full-time right off the bat, but as time progresses and you become a valuable resource, they may decide to offer you a full-time position. Other companies have trial periods, after which your job performance will be evaluated for a full-time gig. It is generally worth the investment of time to take a part-time position because, even if you're unable to land full-time employment with that company, you'll come away with relevant experience to add to your résumé.

GET EDUCATED AND INVEST IN YOURSELF

If you're lacking relevant job experience, be proactive by taking a training or certificate program at a cannabis-specific school like Oaksterdam University in California or Clover Leaf University in Colorado. Highlighting these programs on your résumé will help you stand out from an overflowing pool of job seekers.

GET ACTIVE

Meet as many people as you can so they know you're actively looking for a cannabis career. Join a local meet-up group, engage with other activists and attend events, and always work to expand your networking circle. Doing field research by attending job fairs and meeting company reps will help you burnish your interview skills and clue you in to open positions (some of which may be unlisted), as well as help put a face to your name when you submit your application.



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Chloe Villano is CEO, founder and president of Colorado's Clover Leaf University, the first and only state-accredited cannabis training school. From medical professionals to marijuana-industry workers, there's something for everyone to learn at Clover Leaf.

There's no doubt that marijuana is the fastest-growing industry in America today. To date, 26 states have legalized medical marijuana for qualified patients, and eight states and the District of Columbia have laws legalizing marijuana for recreational use, including California, Maine, Massachusetts and Nevada, which passed measures legalizing marijuana in the November 2016 elections.

There is no limit to the possibilities this provides for the new legal marijuana industry—and getting in on the ground floor creates an opportunity unlike any other. The industry will create tens of thousands of jobs in every legal state. There is also a huge opportunity for people to open new businesses in this sector.

My school, Clover Leaf University, is the cannabis industry's leading multi-spectrum educational institution, with a fundamental commitment to setting



A tray of finely cured cannabis, ready for processing.

Getting in on the ground floor creates an opportunity unlike any other. The industry will create tens of thousands of jobs in every legal state.

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for training government officials, local municipalities, investors, entrepreneurs, business owners, medical professionals, legal professionals, managers, in-house employees, and occupational professionals in all matters related to the emerging cannabis market.

Our curriculum integrates all industry positions, from budtenders to cultivators. CLU has launched various research-and-development projects concerning cannabis, and we strive to raise awareness about its potential to benefit society through patient and consumer education, and by creating a knowledgeable industry and workforce.

We are helping the various stakeholders create a standard of excellence for the cannabis industry. At CLU, we give you the resources to succeed. The best advice we can give you is to get educated and get a job now! The marijuana industry is projected to create more jobs than manufacturing by 2020. In the first year of legalization, over 10,000 jobs were created virtually overnight in the state of Colorado. Currently, there are over 30,000 employees in the industry in Colorado alone, and that isn't even close to what we'll see in larger markets such as California in the near future.✳

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2016 S.T.A.S.H. AWARDS

OUR PICKS FOR GEAR OF THE YEAR

The High Times Cultivation Department is constantly on the lookout for new innovations in marijuana-farming technology. Each year, we reveal the latest and greatest grow gear as part of our Significant, Technological Achievements in Secretive Horticulture (or S.T.A.S.H.) Awards.



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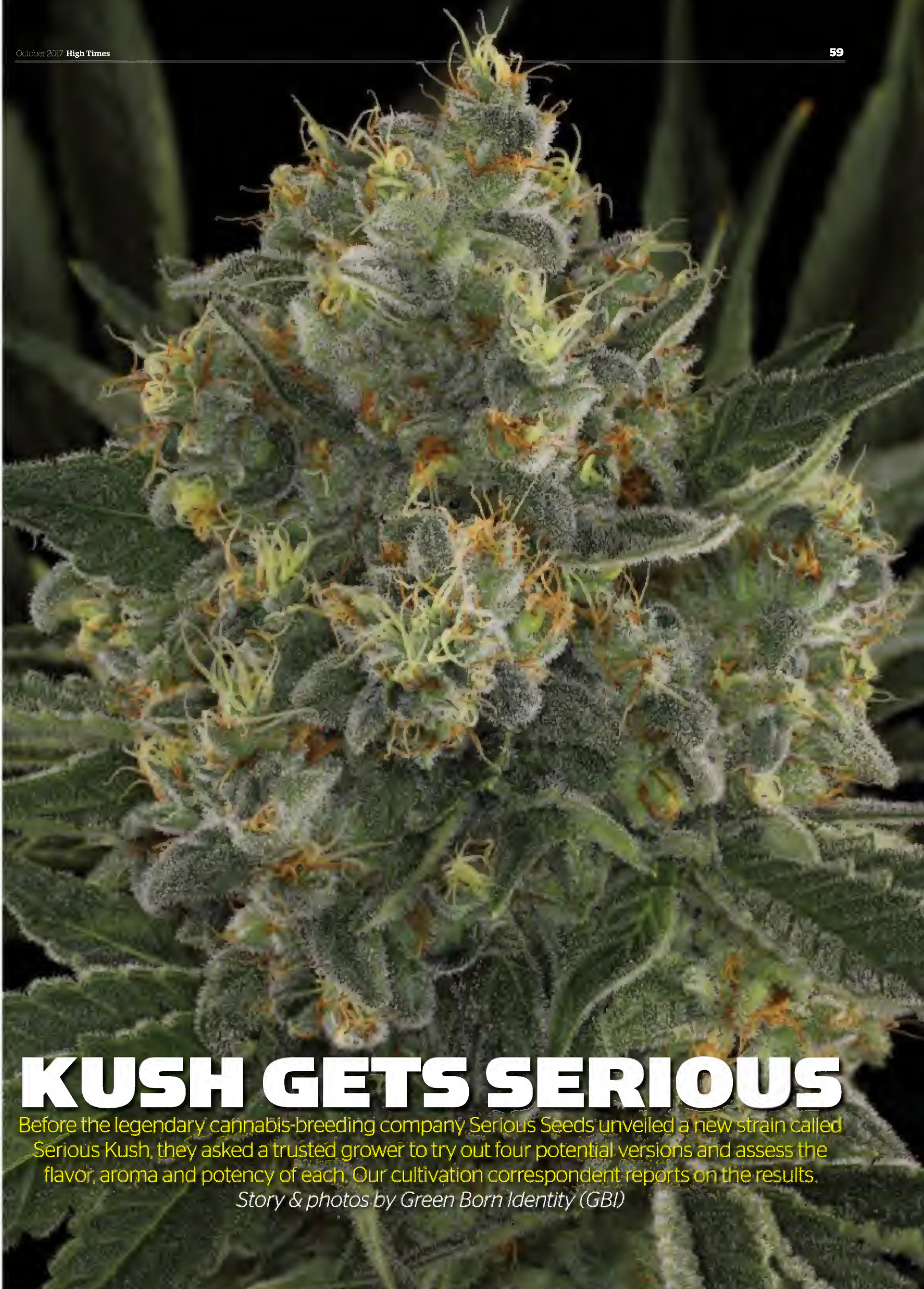
It's taken a hybrid of talent, timing and great buds to get us to where we are today. We aren't the kind to roll over when times get sticky and it's this determination and passion that sets us apart.

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KUSH GETS SERIOUS

Before the legendary cannabis-breeding company Serious Seeds unveiled a new strain called Serious Kush, they asked a trusted grower to try out four potential versions and assess the flavor, aroma and potency of each. Our cultivation correspondent reports on the results.

Story & photos by Green Born Identity (GBI)



A NEW STAR IS BORN

There's no end in sight for the global phenomenon known as "Kushmania," with new Kush-based strains and phenotypes popping out of the ground like mushrooms every month. But one variety stands out from the rest as a rare and precious specimen that deserves special attention. This new strain comes from Serious Seeds, the renowned and long-established seed company based in the Netherlands. The strain is called Serious Kush, and it consists of one of their classic best-sellers, White Russian, crossed with the legendary OG Kush.

While Serious Seeds has slightly stepped up the frequency with which they release new strains in recent years, they're still laudably pursuing their strict quality-before-quantity policy, so the expectations for this new Kush variety were high. And according to Serious breeder Simon, their customers won't be disappointed: "I'm personally very happy with the result of the Serious Kush. Also, many very experienced people who tried it remark to me that this version is, quote, 'the best they've ever smoked!'"

SERIOUS HISTORY

For well over two decades, Serious Seeds has been at the forefront of marijuana breeding. Founded in Amsterdam in 1995 by Simon, the company has won multiple Cannabis Cups and was one of the inaugural entrants in our High Times Seed Bank Hall of Fame back in 2007. While many other companies have expanded their line to include



Serious Kush packs on weight as it matures.

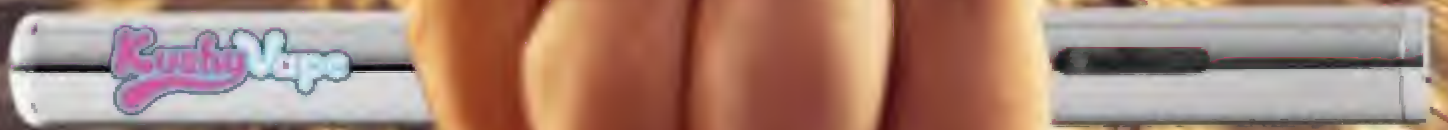
several dozen or more varieties, Simon and his team have focused on just a handful of strains and kept them bred true, with superb flavor, scent and potency as well as impeccable germination rates.

The Serious stable of strains includes such stalwarts as AK-47, Kali Mist, Bubble Gum and White Russian. The seeds for these award-winning strains are produced in small

batches and thus are always hand-selected and fresh. Simon's emphasis on stability and consistency may have cost him a few dollars over the years, but the reputation he's built for his products remains impeccable. That's why we—and the rest of the world's cannabis connoisseurs—have been so anxiously awaiting a new release from the Serious team.

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Breeder Simon examines a lab specimen.

BREEDING KUSH

Asked why he created Serious Kush, Simon said: "A few years ago, while I was on a trip to Canada, somebody gave me very resinous buds of an accidental cross between White Russian and OG Kush." The potent strain quickly became a favorite among the people who tried it. "It was a great combo—a more subtle but clear and fuel-like 'Kushy' taste combined with the structure and yield of White Russian, which even after smoking for a long period doesn't lose its strength and attractiveness. So I decided to start an actual breeding project back home with White Russian and OG Kush."

The whole process for breeding Serious Kush took about a year and a half. After the initial selection stage for possible parents, Simon ended up with four different parent combos, from which a clear winner eventually emerged. As Simon notes, the keeper pheno offers a nice new blend of Kush's trademark fuel aroma with the sweet and spicy undertones of White Russian. Serious Kush grows to a height of 75 to 85 centimeters when given four weeks of vegetative time, then requires 56 to 63 days in the flowering stage to mature, after which growers are rewarded with 300 to 450 grams per square meter.



Simon and Paul of Serious Seeds seem happy with the results.

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Serious Kush exhibits extensive branching.

GROWING SERIOUSLY

It was with a good deal of excitement and pride that Serious seed tester Mr. Power Planter approached the opportunity to become a part of this important new breeding project. This was at the crucial stage when Simon—still not sure which cross would ultimately prove to be the best—wanted to see those different parent lines grown out next to one another. As Simon reports, “By this time, we had plants of the same crosses growing at different locations, but Mr. PP was the first to offer a head-to-head comparison of those lines. So his work was very helpful to give us strong hints toward finding the favorite for which we were searching.” For this test, Mr. Power Planter received four different White Russian x OG Kush lines in the form of 10 feminized seeds each.

Although he knew these seeds were fresh and in optimum condition, he was stunned by the fact that every single one of them sprouted perfectly. A germination rate of 100% from 40 seeds is undoubtedly an impressive achievement. It turned out to be a great start!

After Mr. Power Planter had transplanted them into 7.5-liter pots, the plants grew beautifully in the vegetative stage. All of them displayed that typical Serious quality, defined by healthy, vigorous and compact growth on strong branches. In the veg stage, the four lines didn’t show much difference, apart from the fact that two were growing a bit more compactly—but aside from that, all of the plants resembled each other fairly closely, with similar or identical growth patterns and the same medium-broad, dark-green shade leaves.



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Serious Kush colas swell under grow lights.

KUSH FLOWERS

“Simon seems to have done an excellent breeding job up to this point,” Mr. Power Planter noted, “as there already is a pretty good degree of vegetative uniformity, both within and among these four lines.” When he switched the 40 plants to the flowering stage after four weeks of veg growth, they were about 40 to 55 cm tall. Pre-flowering set in about a week later, with all of the plants exhibiting what Mr. Power Planter wanted to see: female flowers.

Stem elongation continued until week four of the flowering stage and naturally revealed a bit more dissimilarity between the lines due to somewhat different stretching behavior. This led to a couple of plants looking like dense *indica* bushes later on—albeit very well-branched *indica* bushes—while the others were taller and had a more open branching structure.

More differences became evident in terms of bud formation. While the buds overall

were clearly on the *indica* side, some of them gradually differed in shape and calyx-to-leaf-ratio—no huge surprise when you have four different lines growing. But after eight weeks of flowering, all of the buds had three crucial things in common: They were all extremely big, extremely dense and extremely resinous!

As far as the eye could see, Mr. Power Planter’s sizable growroom was crowded with huge, fat head buds and heavily bud-laden side branches. “Now this is some really serious—even insane—overall quality!” he said enthusiastically. “When I heard that I would grow four different genetic lines from an intermediate stage of breeding, I had expected that only one or two would perform very well—but certainly not all of them to rock the show in such a stunning manner! Simply amazing... some of these plants are among the most resinous cannabis specimens I’ve ever witnessed. They’re so white that one gets almost blinded by the incredible abundance of resin that seems to be dripping out of the buds!”

SERIOUS SCENTS

“The super-rich aroma of these plants is likewise impressive,” Mr. Power Planter continued. “Here we have a higher degree of variation as a matter of course, with two of the four lines basically giving off that typical Kush odor, sweetened with a sugary note of White Russian. I presume that these two lines will be shortlisted by Simon, as a ‘Kushy’ aroma certainly is an important selection criterion for him.”

The flowering times ran approximately eight to 10 weeks, with most of the plants maturing between weeks eight and nine. When Simon came to inspect the plants after eight weeks of flowering, he was stoked by the sight of Mr. Power Planter’s results. He happily sniffed around the growroom, busily made notes about the plants’ characteristics and took some photos. “Making a decision is not going to be easy indeed,” he told Mr. Power Planter. “And, of course, I also need to include the actual dry end-products into my choice.”



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Dry Serious Kush bud packs an *indica* punch.



YIELDING KUSH

Once Mr. Power Planter had harvested and dried his entire White Russian x OG Kush crop, the average yield turned out to be about 90 grams per plant, which Mr. PP considered highly remarkable for an experimental strain. He had also gained an abundance of heavily resinous leafy material from the harvest that would later be processed into plenty of primo hashish. Without a doubt, this new Serious strain had proven to be a supremely productive hash plant as well.

Simon was keen to get some detailed feedback as soon as possible. Given the sheer mass of buds harvested, test-smoking them all in a short period of time would be an impossible task, so Mr. Power Planter—together with a couple of friends—decided to focus on a range of selected specimens from each of the four lines.

SERIOUS TESTING

All of these superb and incredibly frosty buds looked and smelled like true champions. The fuel scent produced by two of the lines had not only survived the drying process but had even gained in intensity, though mixed with notes of sweetness and spiciness. The other two lines were sweet and savory, also promising a delicious taste experience.

Test-smoking the dried buds felt like an exciting feast. The guys weren't surprised at all when every single nugget they sampled turned out to pack a jaw-dropping *indica* punch that brought on a tremendously strong sensation of stoniness and relaxation—one potent enough to astound even jaded smokers like Mr. Power Planter and his pals. As Mr. PP reported: "This is eye-rollingly intense marijuana coming with all the hallmarks desired from a mighty Kush strain—a full-blast body-and-head turn lasting for hours and providing a deep, long-lasting breath of blissful relaxation that gives you glazed eyes and a feeling of having your head in the clouds.

Simon shows off his newest creation.



“These *indica*-driven effects are great for unwinding and alleviating stress and pain, so I’m sure that Serious Kush will become very popular with medical patients. Some of the buds also revealed a lofty *sativa* effect after the first tokes—which sooner or later gave way to that mighty *indica* hammer, though. As for the flavor, all the buds delivered an intense burst of spicy sweetness that lingered on the tongue and palate very long—a yummy full-mouth taste that was deeply enjoyed by all of us.”

All four of the potential Serious Kush lines had passed Mr. Power Planter’s test grow with flying colors. After Simon was able to test a selection of the dry buds himself, he reported several weeks later that he’d chosen line number three as the winner—one of the two lines with a powerful Kush aroma—and would continue the breeding process with the parental combination from which it had emerged.

It didn’t take long for Simon to announce the official name of his new strain, Serious Kush, and promise that it would hit the market in early 2017. Mr. Power Planter and his friends were absolutely certain that when it did, Serious Kush would capture the hearts of Kush fans everywhere. The first official confirmation came when Mr. Power Planter’s friend Cloudz entered Serious Kush (at that point still called White Russian Kush) into the ICMag Cup 2016 and took home third place in the *Indica* Growers category. 🌿

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Humboldt's Finest Cannabis

Just off a rocky coastline, in the shadow of the tallest trees on earth, marijuana farmers combine age-old techniques with sustainable practices to produce some of the most potent and pristine pot on the planet.

Story by Danny Danko, photos by Justin Cannabis

Outdoor plants
bathe in full
sunshine, soaking
up the rays as they
mature.





A Humboldt's Finest farmer inspects growing plants.



Plants grown in rows allow easy access to all sides.

The Triangle Offense

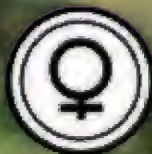
“Craft cannabis” is a popular term these days, but what does it truly mean? What special skills does it take to produce premium-quality pot? What can marijuana connoisseurs, patients and producers do to ensure that the buds and hash they create or consume are clean, safe and potent, with minimal, if any, impact on the environment? I traveled to the best place in the world to find the answers to these questions: Northern California’s Emerald Triangle, three counties—Trinity, Mendocino and Humboldt—where the closely guarded secrets of proper marijuana horticulture reside quietly among the giant redwoods.





Cannabis has been an integral part of the culture here for many decades. Growing pot for a living is a local tradition that has been practiced and handed down from generation to generation—and always with an eye to reducing the environmental impacts. Contrary to misleading news reports, the pot farmers I met here seek to protect their culture over the long term, and that means using sustainable practices and improving the soil year after year. This is a healthy environment that they wish to maintain and treat with the proper respect.

The climate also plays an important role in the area’s justly renowned reputation for weed. Hot days and cool nights throughout the summer months result in huge, healthy pot plants. The clean, moist air and fertile soil produce a regional terroir—the term used by vintners to refer to the unique qualities that a particular location can impart to its bounty. As with wine or cheese, the final product reflects its environment, and the growers of Humboldt cherish and nurture these traditions.



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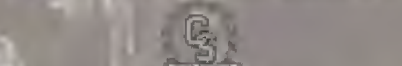
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Greenhouses and an orchard work as wind breaks.



Mr. Nice colas grown in full sun swell to achieve their full potential.

Humboldt's Finest Farms

I had the pleasure to speak with Joseph Shepp, the CEO of Humboldt's Finest, who has accumulated decades of wisdom on strains, locations and techniques. Shepp explained to me the driving philosophy of his business: "We seek to meet the demand for high-quality, sun-grown cannabis using sustainable practices and without chemical fertilizers or toxic pesticides."

With all this in mind, Shepp formed Humboldt's Finest in 1996 as an alliance of local pot farmers dedicated to creating a great artisanal product while also meeting high standards for workers' rights, safety and health. Thus far, three farms have signed on: Humboldt Hills Natural Farms, Mattole River Farms and Humboldt Green Farms, each with its own microclimate well suited for marijuana growing. Their considerable efforts to naturally nurture their crops are helping to restore the ecosystems and salmon populations in the Eel and Mattole rivers.

Shepp was born and raised in Humboldt, left to earn his MBA, and then returned with a plan to gather together the best local growers in order to protect the culture, history and wilderness of the area while also sharing it with the world. He believes that scrupulous cannabis consumers will demand a product with purity and be willing to pay a little extra to ensure that they're consuming something that can be verified as authentic to the region and true to its history of quality in cultivation.

"One of our ultimate goals," Shepp says, "is to achieve an official appellation—such as Champagne, for instance—that will identify our products' geographical origin and protect our rights to our historical legacy." With so many large corporations getting into the cultivation business these days, it sounds like a good idea to differentiate locally grown goods from mass-produced product. But what exactly is the difference?

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A large pond stores water for the dry season.

Have You Ever Seen the Rain?

One of the more advanced and underappreciated sustainable-farming practices is the collection of rainwater in order to reduce dependency on rivers and streams during drier times. Humboldt's Finest growers capture the rainwater during the wet winter season and store it in specially built ponds and giant tanks for use during the summer, which can get quite dry. The recent drought in California highlighted the need to ease the pressure on local aquifers caused by farming.

Instead of stressing rivers and pulling water from the ecosystem when it's needed most, these forward-thinking cultivators collect the water when it's most plentiful and save that bounty for future use. This protects the region's salmon, which can be greatly impacted by the diversion of water when rivers are already low. Removing groundwater from watersheds during hot summers creates serious challenges, and the growers at Humboldt's Finest seek ways to improve conditions for already struggling fish populations.



Plant feeding is done in mornings or evenings to conserve water.



Aerating water adds oxygen and increases microbial activity.

Tips From Humboldt's Finest

SAVING WATER: Water is a precious resource in California and in many other parts of the world, so water conservation is an important part of cannabis cultivation. Here are some tips to help you save water:

MULCHING. Did you know that adding a layer of mulch to the top of your soil can save as much as 75 percent of your water, which is otherwise lost through evaporation? Mulch can consist of shredded bark, straw or even cardboard used to cover the soil and protect it from the sun.

WATERING TIMES. Watering in the morning and evening when it's cooler can also save a lot of water. Watering when it's hot will lead to more evaporation before the water reaches the roots.

CLEAN BUDS: Now that lab testing has become a common practice, growers are discovering how easy it is to produce moldy cannabis without even realizing it, since mold can grow inside the buds and not be visible. This can have major health impacts on pot users, so here are some tips for keeping your cannabis clean:

HARVEST AT THE PROPER TIME. Although we all want to let our buds pack on as much weight as possible, don't harvest too late: Buds start to decompose if left on the branches for too long, leading to microbial growth inside. How do you know the proper time to harvest? You'll need to break out your magnifying glass and check out the trichomes, the glandular, hairy part of the buds. Harvest while the trichomes are still clear, before they turn an opaque white, for optimal potency and reduced decomposition. If in doubt, ask a professional to take a look.

DEVELOP SANITARY WORK HABITS. When harvesting and drying your buds, be sure to use gloves and work with clean surfaces and containers. Just a little contamination can lead to microbial growth on your buds.

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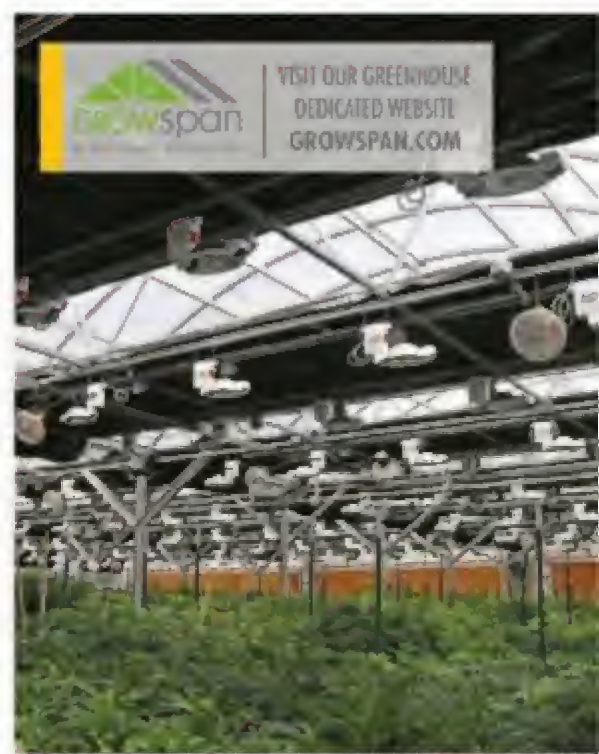
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Let the Sun Shine

All of Humboldt's Finest cannabis is sun-grown, meaning that it's cultivated outdoors or in greenhouses instead of in growrooms that require strong lights and powerful air-conditioning systems. Not only is it far more sustainable and cheaper to grow under the sun, but farmers here have found that patients actually prefer the result.

Over the years, outdoor pot has earned a mixed reputation as leafy, loose and weak—mostly because it had to be hidden and grown near trees in shade. When it's grown under the full sun, however, the full spectrum of light it receives results in a more complete bouquet of active compounds, including terpenes, flavonoids, and the all-important cannabinoids like THC and CBD. Humboldt's Finest plants are pampered as though they're in a spa, with the greenhouses opened during the day and closed up when wind or rain is a factor.

Growing marijuana plants indoors uses an enormous amount of energy, and some grow sites also create a ton of toxic runoff from the synthetic nutrients, pesticides or fungicides that they use. But the carbon footprint of Humboldt's Finest is potentially negative: Their outdoor plants actually take in carbon dioxide from the air and turn it into oxygen, thereby reducing the impact of greenhouse gases.

Large plants grown outdoors or in greenhouses require large containers filled with a loose and airy soilless mix. The farmers here employ light-deprivation techniques to shorten or extend the seasons and manage to grow two full harvests per year.

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Plants grown in loose airy soil develop massive colas as they ripen.

Digging in the Dirt

Another hugely important aspect of ecological pot production is building better soil. The multi-generational botanists at Humboldt's Finest dedicate themselves to improving the quality of their growing medium in several ways. Composting, cover crops, companion planting, and crop rotation are just a few of the techniques these farmers use to create and sustain a living ecosystem that enhances itself year after year.

Cover crops in the winter include clover and legumes to fix nitrogen and to reduce the leaching of nutrients during the wet season. The addition in the spring of beneficial bacteria and fungi helps create a vibrant life in the soil. The worms thrive and end up doing much of the work, aerating the soil and leaving behind rich castings. This type of microbial activity in the medium encourages the mycorrhizal strands to help break down organic nutrients for easier uptake by roots. This symbiotic relationship nurtures the plants in ways that chemical

nutrient applications simply can't rival.

But why is this important for the consumer? Fewer nutrients result in a cleaner-burning product with better aroma and flavor. Overfeeding runs rampant in the cannabis-cultivation arena, and most of the pot available on the market today has way too many residual salts and minerals to be considered aficionado-quality. Humboldt's Finest growers use natural pest-management techniques, including predator insects such as ladybugs, to control aphids and other intrusive bugs.

Medical patients should also be concerned about the level of metals and other additives that may be present within the cells of their nugs. Plants grown in a healthy living soil need less flushing as they near harvest because they've remained properly fed throughout their life cycle. Joints and bowls will stay lit and burn to a clean, white ash. The flavor of buds and concentrates will stay true to the essence of the flower, unadulterated by any contaminants.



Cover crops renew the fertility of the soil year after year.



Companion plants can alert growers to pest infestations and other issues.

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The strains grown by Humboldt's Finest include Girl Scout Cookies, Scout Master, Sunset Sherbet, XJ-13 and OG Kush. These are all stalwarts of the West Coast cannabis scene, and the versions that Humboldt's Finest farmers grow are choice specimens. All have been bred to withstand the moist late-season conditions and handle the rigors of outdoor life. The plants grow big and branchy, requiring several levels of trellising in order to hold up their heavy, bud-laden boughs as they swell.

Each strain grown by Humboldt's Finest boasts several unique properties, and all have stood the test of time. The OG Kush is a California classic, with the earthy scent and *indica*-fueled body buzz known far and wide. Their Girl Scout Cookies and Scout Master provide the electric, energetic vibes great for treating stress, migraines and pain. The hybrid Sunset Sherbet offers the best of both worlds, with complex effects for body and mind. XJ-13 is the *sativa*-dominant Jack Herer/G-13 cross perfect for creativity and friendly gatherings, and reportedly very effective for those coping with anxiety and depression.

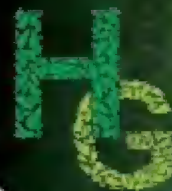
Everything that Humboldt's Finest grows is lab-tested for fungus, pests and

their intention is to honor the region's past contributions to cannabis cultivation and culture while ensuring that their way of life and earth-healthy practices continue for many years.

other microbials as well as to determine the cannabinoid levels and terpene profile. At the moment, the cannabis collective produces flower in eighths and in pre-rolled joints. All of the packaging is childproof and environmentally sustainable as well, consisting of handmade compostable boxes instead of non-biodegradable plastic. The products receive Patient Focused Certification from Americans for Safe Access in adherence with ASA's strict quality standards for medical cannabis products and businesses.

Overall, the farmers united under the Humboldt's Finest umbrella seek to preserve the legacy of Humboldt County's heritage family farms. Their intention is to honor the region's past contributions to cannabis cultivation and culture while ensuring that their way of life and earth-healthy practices continue for many years. They're also creating a "Grown in Humboldt" seal that will list the strain, grower, lab results and origin of every product that reaches the shelves to alert the consumer to its legitimacy. Future plans include taking over an old abandoned logging mill and turning it into a cannabis-production facility, bringing the region's reconciliation with its history and environment full circle. ✨





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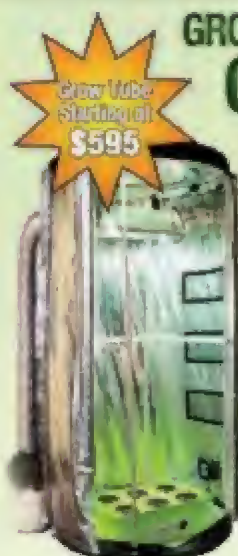
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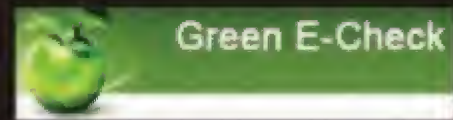


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THE CRIMES OF REEFER MADNESS

Convincing the country that cannabis posed such a danger to society that only prohibition could save it was never going to be easy. Remember that, in the years before the peak reefer-madness era of the 1930s, marijuana was generally considered a benign, medically efficacious substance that was widely available in American pharmacies. However, the nation's nascent drug warriors in the newly formed Federal Bureau of Narcotics, led by an enterprising propagandist named Harry Anslinger, were able to co-opt a number of sensational crimes and disingenuously tie them to cannabis. With the help of marijuana "experts" like Dr. James C. Munch, the FBN succeeded in creating an anti-cannabis campaign that left an indelible mark on the American psyche, ultimately resulting in pot's prohibition. In reality, the crimes used in furtherance of Anslinger's crusade often had little or nothing whatsoever to do with cannabis. These are the true crimes of reefer madness. *By Mona Zhang*

“After two puffs on a marijuana cigarette, I was turned into a bat.”

Such was the testimony of Dr. James C. Munch, a marijuana “expert” who was called as a witness in two murder trials in 1938. Munch was a Temple University pharmacologist who’d ingratiated himself with Harry J. Anslinger and became his unconscionable henchman at the Federal Bureau of Narcotics—the predecessor of the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Munch had experimented with the reefer on himself, and he explained its

Munch in a 1966 paper for the *Bulletin on Narcotics*, a publication of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

To illustrate his point, Munch included nearly 70 “authenticated case reports” of crimes committed by those who’d smoked cannabis. (Anslinger, who helmed the FBN for more than 30 years, made a habit of collecting salacious stories to illustrate the evils of pot.) “This objective evidence supports published statements of the association between the use of marihuana and various types of crime,” Munch asserted.

But perhaps the most notorious of Munch’s tales was one from Tampa, FL, in 1933. Munch claimed that a man named Victor Licata “[m]urdered his father, mother, sister and two brothers with an ax, while under influence of marihuana. Didn’t know of all this until next morning.”

The story of Victor Licata was widely used to promote the theory of a link between cannabis and violent crime. As previously reported in *High Times* (April ’13), the 20-year-old Florida man became

Licata’s act of murdering his family with an ax was certainly horrific, and thus the perfect case for Anslinger to capitalize on.

instrumental in Anslinger’s budding War on Drugs. Licata’s act of murdering his family with an ax was certainly horrific, and thus the perfect case for Anslinger to capitalize on. He insisted that Licata had been smoking pot and was greatly aided by a press eager to play up the killer’s marijuana “addiction.”

There was, of course, no evidence that Licata was driven insane by marijuana. However, the troubled young man was diagnosed with “dementia praecox,” an early psychiatric term for schizophrenia. His family’s well-documented history of mental illness was eventually made known to the public, but not until after Anslinger had gotten what he wanted out of the story that he and Munch created.



Marijuana “expert” James C. Munch recorded “cannabis crimes.”

allegedly psychosis-inducing effects at the trials of Ethel “Bunny” Sohl and Arthur Friedman. Both were on trial for murder, and both attempted to blame the devil’s weed for their deeds.

“After the first cigarette, I felt as if I had wings,” Munch said of his experience. “I seemed to have great blue wings and I was flying around the world.”

Munch went on to enjoy a successful career fighting the War on Drugs as an expert pharmacologist working for several government agencies. He held various positions at hospitals in Philadelphia and served as the director of pharmacology research at Temple for more than two decades—an impressive résumé that gave him an air of credibility regarding what he painted as a little-understood and frightening narcotic. Munch’s status as a well-respected doctor and scholar aided him in convincing many that marijuana could drive otherwise law-abiding citizens to commit murder. His work greatly assisted Anslinger in demonizing and ultimately prohibiting cannabis in the 1930s.

“Literature surveys and personal contacts have clearly demonstrated the association between the use of marihuana and the commission of various crimes,” wrote

The “Objective” Evidence

The types of crimes that Munch attributed to cannabis use included murder, rape and robbery. Even bigamy fell under his umbrella of pot-induced mayhem: Munch wrote of an unidentified defendant in 1938 that “[a]fter smoking 2 marihuana cigarettes, [he] married [a] waitress, although already married and with 3-year-old child. Everything went blank, and he had no control.”



Ax murderer Victor Licata’s mug shot

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A Terrible Crime

“Smoked 2 marihuana cigarettes, then raped his 7-year old daughter... Outcome: Death in gas,” Munch wrote about the case of Oscar Ralph Ashworth in 1938. Despite including the Ashworth crime in his “authenticated” case file, Munch seems to have gotten most of the basic facts wrong.

Ashworth pleaded guilty to kidnapping a 7-year-old girl in Missouri and was sentenced to be executed in the gas chamber. However, Munch’s accusation of marijuana consumption appears to be completely unfounded: There is no evidence that Ashworth ever smoked pot. Also, the girl wasn’t his daughter, and even though Ashworth confessed to committing some kind of assault on her, he was never charged with rape, as Munch asserts—nor did he die in the gas chamber.

Much of the coverage of this case concerned the efforts by Ashworth’s attorneys to intervene in his execution and save his life. But that didn’t stop less scrupulous reports from being published and subsequently used as anti-pot propaganda. According to Courtney Ryley Cooper’s 1939 book *Designs in Scarlet*: “A newspaper made the statement that [Ashworth] was a marihuana fiend and that he had committed his crime while under the influence of the drug. Federal sources reported that as far as could be learned, the whole story originated in the mind of a cub reporter who asked the sex-murderer after he had been sentenced: ‘Why didn’t you tell the court that you smoked marihuana cigarettes?’”

However, Ashworth was no “sex-murderer”: He had previously served time for stealing a hog and for raping a young girl, and he received a death sentence for kidnapping another young girl a year or two after his release from prison on the rape charge. But Cooper himself was no stranger to reefer-madness rantings, having helped Anslinger write the propaganda book *Marijuana, Assassin of Youth* in 1937. However, if his account is correct, the Feds continued for years to use Ashworth’s case as an example of marijuana-fueled depravity, despite knowing that cannabis wasn’t a factor in it at all.

Even decades later, Ashworth’s story was invoked by those who wanted to prop up prohibition. The case was reportedly dredged up by the now-defunct International Narcotic Enforcement Officers’ Association to illustrate the dangers of cannabis during a 1965 conference—27 years after the alleged “marihuana fiend” was supposedly spurred by the drug to

commit his crime. The following year, Munch also cited Ashworth’s case as representative of the “various crimes committed by individuals after use and while under the influence of marihuana (usually smoked).”

The Feds continued for years to use Ashworth’s case as an example of marijuana-fueled depravity, despite knowing that cannabis wasn’t a factor in it at all. Even decades later, Ashworth’s story was invoked by those who wanted to prop up prohibition.

“Killer Confesses in Trunk Murder!”

So blasted the headlines in August of 1937, the same month that President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Marihuana Tax Act into law, effectively prohibiting the cannabis trade.

The murder of Oliver George Sinecal by a man named Joseph Ogden came to be known as the “trunk murder.” Ogden had shot Sinecal and stuffed his body into a trunk with the intention of shipping it to Memphis, Tennessee. After lugging it to the Railway Express Agency, Ogden told the clerk that the unusually heavy piece of luggage contained silverware and hurried away. The clerk, moving the trunk on the platform, saw that it left a trail of blood. He promptly notified the authorities.

The story of Joseph Ogden also came to be included in Munch’s case file of violent crimes allegedly linked to cannabis. “While both smoking marihuana cigarettes, [Ogden] shot and killed room-mate G. Sinecal, who wanted to borrow 20 to buy heroin,” Munch wrote. “Put body in trunk, to get rid of it. Arrested that night, had 20 marihuana cigarettes; had been selling in Miami restaurant before crime. Previous criminal record.” According to Munch, Ogden even stated: “I was fearless after smoking marihuana cigarettes but would not have done this without marihuana.”

But as in the case of Oscar Ralph Ashworth, the details about marijuana cigarettes appear to be entirely fabricated.

The story of Ogden’s crime was featured in the *Foreign Policy Bulletin*, a publication of the nonprofit Foreign

Policy Association. The organization, well regarded by wonks of the era, even drew praise from the president: “The [FPA] is performing a high duty in facilitating the lucid presentation of the facts of world problems and their impact upon the United States,” Roosevelt once wrote.

Among these “facts” was a list of 10 cases “culled at random from the files of the U.S. Bureau of Narcotics” and used to illustrate marijuana’s direct role in violent crime. The list included Ogden and his supposed confession to the trunk murder after smoking marijuana. However, a well-respected psychiatrist at New York’s Bellevue Hospital found no evidence to support the claim.

Ogden “was examined in this clinic,” wrote Walter Bromberg in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* two years after the crime. “There was no indication in the examination or history of the use of any drug.” According to Bromberg, “The investigation by the probation department failed to indicate use of the drug marihuana.”

Bromberg went on to look for evidence of the link between marijuana use and violent crime that drug warriors like Anslinger insisted on, only to come up empty-handed. His clinic saw some 17,000 criminals over the course of more than six years and found several hundred who had “direct experience with marihuana.” In those individuals, Bromberg noted “the absence of true addiction and the negative connection with major crime. Especially is this noteworthy among sexual offenders and in cases of assault or murder.”

The psychiatrist also delved into court records. In sampling the cases of 1,500 drug offenders, Bromberg found only 135 cannabis consumers. Of those, the majority (about 70 percent) had no previous criminal record. About 20 percent had been charged with other crimes, while others had only drug charges on their records. “Among those with longer records... none showed progression from the use of drugs to other crimes,” he wrote.

Bromberg had hit on an insight that most Americans have slowly come to accept: the relative lack of harm associated with cannabis and the absurdity of its prohibition. “The earlier use of marihuana apparently did not predispose [them] to crime,” he wrote, “even that of using other drugs.”

Bromberg then issued a prescient warning: “The extravagant claims... that crime is caused by addiction to marihuana demands careful scrutiny.”



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A newspaper clipping depicts Ethel Sohl before and after the "Devil's Weed."

Unintended Consequences

In his own eagerness to make the case for marijuana and madness, Munch testified at the trial of Ethel Sohl that her reefer smoking led her to "form the intent" of holding up and murdering a bus driver. Sohl herself testified that the marijuana cigarettes "made wrong things seem right."

Ironically, it fell to the prosecutor in the case to argue that marijuana had nothing to do with the crime: "If you men open the door to a fantastic defense of this kind, it will be all right for anyone to commit a murder if only he first smokes marijuana."

Indeed, cannabis was a looming factor in the case and emphasized by the media: "Mrs. Sohl Constantly Smoked Marijuana, Murder Jury Hears," read one headline. Sohl's defense attorney argued that pot use had diminished her capacity to tell right from wrong. "Although counsel said that his defense was not insanity, it amounted substantially to that," observed the judge.

Instead of being sentenced to death, Ethel Sohl got life in prison. Munch's reefer-madness testimony was having the unintended effect of resulting in lesser sentences for these alleged marijuana-crazed killers.

Harry Anslinger put a stop to this, threatening Munch with the loss of his position at the FBN. As a result, Munch stopped testifying and went on to have a long career advising the federal government on the dangers of reefer.

The Racism of Reefer Madness

By now, the racist underpinnings of Anslinger's War on Drugs have been well

documented. He warned that Mexicans and African-Americans were more disposed to use the drug, which allegedly made them lust after white women. He waged a cruel campaign against Billie Holiday when he learned that the rising black star was addicted to heroin, which included planting drugs on the singer and imprisoning her. (The damning details of Anslinger's crusade against Holiday are well told in Johann Hari's book *Chasing the Scream*.) But when he found out that the white actress Judy Garland was similarly addicted, Anslinger called her into his office for a friendly chat and advised her to take longer vacations.

In the hospital where Billie Holiday passed away, narcotics agents handcuffed her to the bed, interrogated her and threatened to take her back to prison. She died, in 1959, before they could do so. Ten years later, Garland was found dead from a barbiturate overdose in her home.

As one digs deeper into newspaper archives, the reefer-madness headlines take on an increasingly racist tone. "Mexicans Grow Weed and School Students Smoke It, Police Chief Says," reads one particularly illustrative headline from 1928. Prejudice against brown people? Check. Concern for children? Check. Overreliance on law-enforcement sources? Check. Nearly 90 years later, these themes remain.

Current media consumers will likely be unsurprised by the era's coverage of "crazed" Mexicans raping and murdering. Take the case of Escrado Valle: "KILLS SIX IN A HOSPITAL. Mexican, Crazed by

Marihuana, Runs Amuck With Butcher Knife," reads a 1925 item from *The New York Times*. Valle, allegedly driven mad from smoking marijuana, stabbed two workers in the hospital kitchen before running into the ward and killing four patients. "Police say that after he was taken to the jail and quieted he denied all knowledge of the affray," the *Times* story continued.

Cases like Valle's were perfect for the narrative that Anslinger and his men promoted. And, indeed, this case became one of many used as racist anti-pot propaganda when Anslinger came to power.

Academic texts on the beginnings of prohibition in the United States often attribute such lurid coverage to anti-Mexican racism. But this type of coverage was common in Mexico as well. Before reefer madness became a staple of American news, the Mexican press was filled with sensational stories of marijuana-induced insanity, of "addicts" going on murderous rampages.

Between 1854 and 1920, the large majority of references to marijuana in the Mexican press included stories of violence and madness attributed to the use of pot, according to an analysis by historian Isaac Campos. This was partly due to marijuana being associated and confused with other plants (such as peyote, mushrooms and datura) used by Indian shamans. But another key factor in the way the Mexican press portrayed the drug was classism—a close cousin of institutional racism in the United States.

From the beginnings of recreational cannabis use in Mexico, it was "associated with prisons and soldiers' barracks. That was definitely a class issue," Campos said. Thanks to its links with criminal types, cannabis "developed a reputation for producing violence." It wasn't a far leap in a country where alcohol-fueled violence was rampant. This was a drug consumed by prisoners, soldiers (who were typically marginalized and conscripted) and Mexican Indians (who were viewed by elites as primitive and uncivilized).

"Mexican ideas spread to the US and helped reinforce ideas in the US that marijuana could cause madness and maybe even violence," Campos explained. "Mexican elites in 1920 had very similar ideas about vice and intoxication as their peers in the US." Both were "anti-alcohol, anti-vice and very puritanical in their views."

As Campos writes in his book *Home Grown*, "the result was a powerful, international prohibitionist alliance between Mexico and the United States. We are still living with the consequences." ✨

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A Weed Fest in Wine Country

Northern California's famed cannabis community came to celebrate the best of their best at the High Times Cannabis Cup in Sonoma. *By Mary Jane Gibson*

Purple reigns supreme!



Artist Ernest Doty

The crowd assembles for the hotly anticipated awards show.



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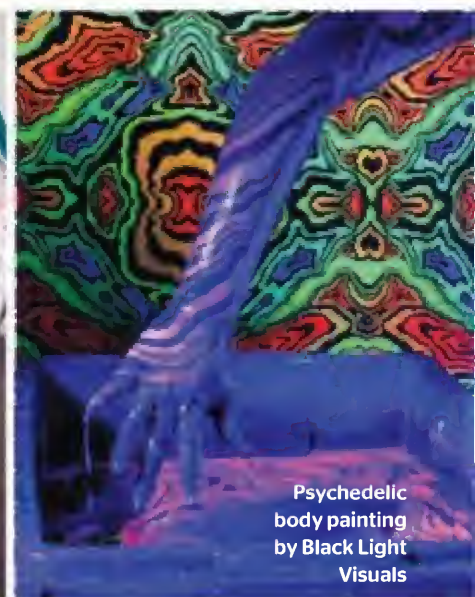
Jahnetics brought fire weed and positive vibes.



When the NorCal Cannabis Cup took place in early June, ganja-preneurs, weed connoisseurs and the entire cannabis community were abuzz over the breaking news that *High Times* magazine had changed hands. As attendees streamed into the Sonoma County Fairgrounds for a budtastic weekend, High Times was getting a lot of attention from the mainstream media about the investment group that had recently purchased a 60 percent stake in the company. Reporters roamed the fairgrounds, interviewing vendors, seasoned smokers, cannabis newbies and HT staffers alike about what exactly this new era will mean for High Times. So



Preparing for the Top Cannabis Chef Cook-Off



Psychedelic body painting by Black Light Visuals



Cup-goers concentrate on what's important...

we showed them: It means the biggest and best celebration of cannabis anywhere in the world—and we're continuing to grow.

On the verdant fairgrounds, tens of thousands of weed enthusiasts roamed a multitude of spaces featuring product demonstrations, medicating areas, seminars and swank VIP lounges. There was plenty to delight the eye: The National Joint League was on hand to show off their giant smokable artistic blunts; the Black Light Visuals body-painting station transformed bare skin into glowing works of art; and Ernest Doty of the ISI Group painted a massive heady masterpiece over the weekend as a backdrop to the festivities.

As always, the healing herb was celebrated in all its forms, in hundreds of booths offering everything from vape cartridges and rosin presses to edibles, topicals and specialty joints. The experiences included a topicals massage spa and the ever-popular cook-off



Free massage? Don't mind if I do!

in Edibles Village—where, over the course of two days, eight talented chefs battled for the title of Top Cannabis Chef. Brandon Allen, the winning chef at our So-Cal cook-off, presided over the competition, handing Chef Marcus of Soul Sugar Kitchen the title after an exciting final round judged by edibles experts.

After taking in the sights and smoke (or vapor, or dabs), folks headed to the seminar stage to hear industry experts and their guests speak about a variety of topics: maximizing your grow, cannabis-law compliance, pot and PTSD and much more. And when the munchies hit, there was a non-medicated food option available for every palate. Whether you were in the mood for a giant corndog or a mouth-watering vegan feast, a plethora of food stands, grills and trucks dished out sustenance for the masses.

As the sun began to set, concertgoers trucked over to the huge Grace Pavilion to check out 311, with stony California rockers Fortunate Youth opening for the venerable band (read our interview with 311 on page 32). A perfect combination of uplifting tunes and great weed drew the Saturday-night crowd in, and they drifted out humming happily after blazing sets from both bands.

The Cup competition at the heart of the event was as strong as ever, with 400 entries in 14 categories—a far cry from the days when there were only four

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C.R.A.F.T. won for Best CBD Flower.



311 got down on Saturday night.



First-time winners Indigo Pro

or five entries in each category! (Check out page 110 for the winners.) A major victory was enjoyed by first-time entrant Keith Healy of Fig Farms: He had a single Banana Fig #8 plant—just enough to get him into the competition—and won first place for Best *Indica* Flower. All of which proves that it's not how much you have that matters, but rather how good it is. When asked for his advice to anyone considering entering the Cannabis Cup, Healy told *High Times*: "Listen to your gut. The fact that a single plant won—and also that Fig Farms won on our first try—means that anyone can, regardless of the size of their farm. Don't be afraid to go for it." Quality over quantity!

The Sunday-afternoon awards show was hosted by comedian Tony Hinchcliffe, who brought his wry observational humor to bear on the stony crowd assembled to find out who'd been named the best of the best. The winners bounded—or, in some cases, ambled—onto the stage to hoist their shiny trophies proudly and give shout-outs to their mentors and collaborators. Legendary hash-maker CubanGrower came to the stage to accept the award for Best Non-Solvent Hash for Exotic Genetix, while his partner Mike looked on approvingly via Skype on an iPad. And newbie first-time winners Indigo Pro were all smiles as they accepted their award for Best Vape Pen.

It was an emotional moment for many when cultivation veteran Kyle Kushman introduced a hero of the marijuana movement, Eddy Lepp, who was given the High Times Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his decades-long fight to free the leaf. Lepp served an eight-year sentence in federal prison for growing marijuana, finally regaining his freedom just last year. He accepted the award with a stirring vow to continue the fight to legalize marijuana, and the enthusiastic crowd hollered its support.

Following the awards show, reggae royalty The Wailers graced the stage for a set infused with their generous irie vibes, and Sublime with Rome closed out the weekend with an upbeat, joyous set on a sunny Sunday evening in NorCal. Then Cup-goers smoked their last joints together, shouldered their swag bags, and headed home with plenty of glorious pot tales to share with their friends. 🌿



The impressive new Cannabis Cups, designed by Alex and Allyson Grey.



Critical Concentrates took home two first place awards.

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CANNABIS CUP WINNERS

BEST INDICA FLOWER

1st Place: Banana Fig #8 by Fig Farms
2nd Place: Wedding Cake by Greenwolf with Alien Labs and Seed Junkies
3rd Place: Ill OG by LA Kush in collaboration with CHR and Flight Farms

BEST SATIVA FLOWER

1st Place: L.A. Snow by Lumpy's Flowers
2nd Place: Orange Tree by Greenwolf with Green Line Organics
3rd Place: Vanish by Purple Frost Genetics

BEST HYBRID FLOWER

1st Place: Mother Pucker by Buds & Roses
2nd Place: Oreo Cookies by Zeki Farms
3rd Place: Bert's Honor by LA Kush in collaboration with CHR and Bert Baccarat

BEST CBD FLOWER

1st Place: CBD OG by C.R.A.F.T.
2nd Place: Blood Orange Cookies by Terraform Genetics
3rd Place: 3C AC/DC by 3C Farms

BEST INDICA CONCENTRATE

1st Place: Golden State Banana by Critical Concentrates with LA Kush and CHR
2nd Place: True OG Live Resin by Elemental Seeds with Dabblicious Extracts
3rd Place: Lemon Fuel Live Resin Bud-der by Doctors Orders with Paper Planes and Alien Labs

BEST SATIVA CONCENTRATE

1st Place: Yellow Cake by Royal Key Organics with Greenwolf
2nd Place: Kasher Jack by Pearl Pharma with Spoiled Patients Collective and Golden State Green
3rd Place: Slymer by CannaCruz

BEST HYBRID CONCENTRATE

1st Place: Pineapple Crush Live Resin by Humboldt's Finest
2nd Place: Strawnana Walker by GC Processing
3rd Place: Frostilope by Utopia

BEST EDIBLE

1st Place: Satori Chocolates by CannaCraft
2nd Place: Stratus: Blueberry, Lemon & Poppy Seeds Cluster by Atlas Edibles
3rd Place: Cannabis Love Bar by LuLu's Botanicals with Higher Vision

BEST TOPICAL

1st Place: 1:3 CBD Rich Relief Balm

by Papa and Barkley
2nd Place: CBD Bath Bomb by Kush Queen
3rd Place: Rich Cannabis Body Cream by Cannaderm

BEST CBD EDIBLE

1st Place: Blueberry Peach CBD/THC by Sensi Sweets
2nd Place: Toasted Sesame CBD Miso by Higher Vision with OM Edibles and Talking Trees Farm
3rd Place: 60mg THC-CBD Sea Salted Caramels by Higher Confections

BEST CBD CONCENTRATE

1st Place: Strawnana DC by Critical Concentrates with Synergy Cannabis Co and LA Kush
2nd Place: Blueberry Headband 1:1 THC Distillate and CBD Crystalline by Fleur D'Elite with Humboldt Seed Organization and Boys in the Wood Extracts
3rd Place: Sun Kiss 1:1 Sauce by Gold Drop and Blue River and Original Breeders League

BEST MEDICALLY INFUSED PRODUCT

1st Place: The Bless Army Pre-Roll by Sunnabis and Bohemian Highway Rosin Artists
2nd Place: White Recluse Pre Rolls by White Recluse By Canna Innovations
3rd Place: Cannarillo by Jack's Extracts

BEST VAPE PEN CARTRIDGES

1st Place: Sour Diesel 100% Cannabis Oil by Indigo Pro
2nd Place: Gelato by 710 Kingpen with Greenwolf
3rd Place: Gelato #33 by Gold Drop with Blue River and Alien Labs

BEST NON-SOLVENT HASH

1st Place: Milk & Cookies Drysift Rosin Wax by Exotic Genetics
2nd Place: Lemon Tangle by Rosin Brothers with Greenwolf
3rd Place: Lemon Peel 7 Star Hash Rosin by Dank Czar

BEST BOOTH

1st Place: California's Finest
2nd Place: Los Angeles Kush x Brass Knuckles
3rd Place: SHO Products

BEST GLASS

Papa Bear

BEST PRODUCT

1st Place: California's Finest / Nick & Nate Diaz / Synergy
2nd Place: Brass Knuckles X Los Angeles Kush X LAK Extracts
3rd Place: The Soil King

BEST VAPORIZER

The Aurora by Dr. Dabber

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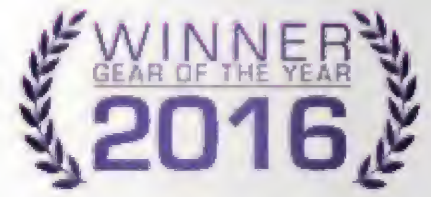
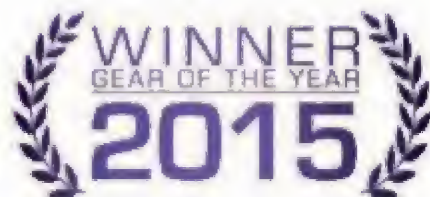
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Thank you, High Times. Congratulations on your 500th Issue!



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By JOHNNY DEPP

DOUG STANHOPE

THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW

ACTOR JOHNNY DEPP FOUND A KINDRED SPIRIT IN COMEDIAN DOUG STANHOPE. AFTER TAKING IN STANHOPE'S 2007 COMEDY SPECIAL *No Refunds*, DEPP MADE A POINT OF REACHING OUT TO THE STAND-UP, ANXIOUS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE MAN HE SAW TELLING RAW TRUTHS ON STAGE IN THE VEIN OF THE LATE GREAT LENNY BRUCE. AFTER CONNECTING BY PHONE, THE TWO FORMED A FRIENDSHIP THAT LED TO DEPP EXECUTIVE PRODUCING TWO OF STANHOPE'S STAND-UP SPECIALS, *The Comedians' Comedian's Comedians* AND *No Place Like Home*, BOTH NOW AVAILABLE ON *SEESO*. DEPP ALSO PENNED THE FOREWORD TO STANHOPE'S 2016 BOOK *DIGGING UP MOTHER*.

WHILE THE TWO HAVE ACHIEVED DIFFERENT LEVELS OF RENOWN IN DIFFERENT FIELDS, THEY BONDED OVER A SHARED COMEDIC AESTHETIC THAT PLACES TRUTH TELLING ABOVE ALL ELSE—AT ANY COST.

SETTING ASIDE THE TRADITIONAL *HIGH TIMES* INTERVIEW FORMAT THIS MONTH, WE DECIDED TO HAND THINGS OVER TO MR. DEPP AND MR. STANHOPE WHO GOT TOGETHER FOR A FREEWHEELING CONVERSATION ABOUT, AMONG OTHER THINGS, COMEDY, CREATIVITY AND FAME.

THE FOLLOWING IS A (SMALL) PORTION OF THAT CONVERSATION.

DEPP: I don't know if I've told you this or not, but I'm a great admirer—maybe even a little more than admirer. Maybe it's a man crush, but your sense of style... well, to me, it speaks volumes about a person, obviously—their sense of style.

STANHOPE: I have two outfits: I have '70s vintage and pajamas.

Well, that's exactly it, because you could have gone in the direction of, say, the Pips of Gladys Knight fame or The Temptations or whatever, but you went for the early Mike Douglas look, which I like a lot.

The used-car salesman. When you have leisure suits, they're flat-belly. My gut sticks out—I have the bloated, alcoholic, distended-internal-organs belly—so I can't wear them.

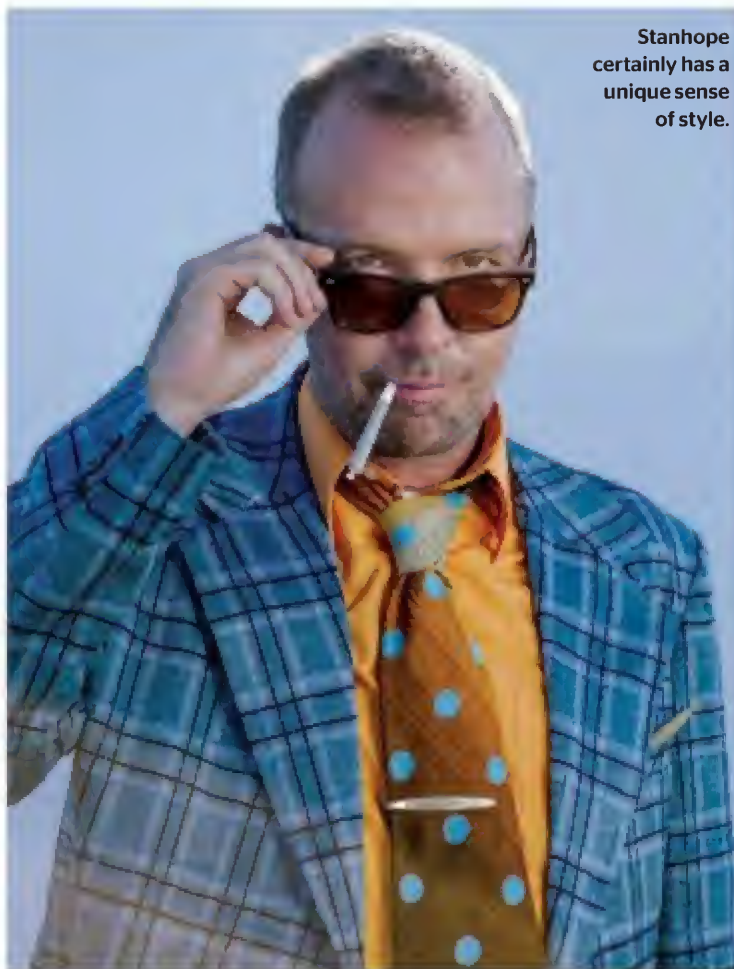
No, I saw you recently... you looked great. You looked fantastic when I saw you.

No, no, I wear, like, the sport coat—the Herb Tarlek from *WKRP in Cincinnati*.

You were describing the place you're in. Do you remember when I first tracked you down and we had our first interaction?

Yes. That was Victoria, BC—I think it was a Days Inn—and you called me. I was standing outside in a parking lot in the pouring rain, trying to stand under a tree so I could smoke when I talked to you, because I don't like to talk to people I don't know when I'm not smoking or drinking. My tour manager and I were doing acid, and I called you again in the morning. I go, "Hey, whatever happens, if we're doing acid, don't let me fucking acid-dial Johnny Depp, because he just called me and I have his number, and that would be bad."

It did sort of spring out of nowhere. The first thing I saw of yours was *No Refunds*. I know we've talked about this



Stanhope certainly has a unique sense of style.

"Comedy fucked me in that I never had an adulthood. It stole that from me. I started it at 23 and now I'm 50, and all I do for a living is get drunk and yell at people."

before, but it was the one that really took me aback. It made me—well, not to blow too much smoke up your ass just yet...

You were the first person that I remember hearing that from. It was a bit that I thought was only for me: "Did you ever try to sleep sober? It's like a carnival in your head when you're trying to sleep sober." I thought I was the only alcoholic fuck-up left—but so many people since then have said, "That's the bit! That's the bit that I fucking heard!"

That's it right there. That's the one that really struck me, and why I was truly captivated then.

Those are the bits that you really enjoy. The cliché is that "some of these are just for me," and you go, "Oh, wow, I wasn't trying to be Jerry

Seinfeld on that"—but people still jumped in and went, "Oh, shit, that happens to me all the fucking time!"

That's the thing, though: It's the absolute truth. I mean, you know my obsession with the fucking truth, and so for me it was like, "Well, there's Lenny Bruce. There's George Carlin. There's Don Rickles. There's Richard Pryor. This guy's a bundle of gifts—absolute nonstop information and correctness."

I'm kind of happy to live in this age. When I grew up, there were four channels, and now there's the internet and cable. There's a billion channels, and I like to be in a watered-down field where if the Kentucky Derby went from 20 horses to a billion horses, yeah, the people that like my horse will find me. But I don't have to deal with

fucking people outside my gate with cameras like you do. You're fucked.

Well, it's a weird thing because, certainly both of us, to a degree... I mean, it's all relative.

You live under a microscope where nobody has a clear view from the other side. You're the amoeba, and all the students have glaucoma.

We're in privileged positions, you know what I mean? We must say that. I mean, the last thing that I'd want to hear ever in my life is some fucking actor whining about his inability to deal with certain occupational hazards. It's ludicrous to complain about.

You never go out.

No, but I mean, that's just a part of—

That's what I love about you: I live like you... even though nobody knows who the fuck I am, I still never go out.

(Laughs) Well, you know, it's a weird road. I became an actor by mistake—I mean, literally by accident. And I wonder if there was ever a conscious moment of choice for you. Did you make a conscious decision—saying, "I'm going to be a fucking comedian"—or was it actually not really having a choice in the matter?

No, I was never a guy who thinks, "This is what I was sent here to do." I fell into it—I couldn't sing karaoke, and I wasn't attractive and wasn't athletic, and I still wanted to get laid. But I had that funny thing going on, so I said, "I'll try this open-mic shit"—and it just carried me from there. I never planned any of this. Every credit on my résumé is a pile of dog shit that I accidentally stepped in.

(Laughs) What age were you then?

Twenty-three. That's about the same age you started with the acting because your band sucked.

BUDS NOW BIGGER THAN BEER

GROWING EXPOSED



David Robinson, author of *The Growers' Handbook*, lends his expertise to a segment called *Teachings of the Garden Sage*.



ARTICLE BY JEREMY DEICHEN



Growing Exposed a new video series produced by Jeremy Deichen, has been coined "the MTV *Cribs* of the marijuana industry" for its exclusive look into the once underground world of North America's gardens. Aside from revealing secrets of industry leaders, David Robinson, author of *The Growers' Handbook*, lends his expertise to a segment called *Teachings of the Garden Sage*. You can check out gardens, like the ones that make British Columbia's Kootenay region the Mecca of B.C. bud, in the latest episodes at www.growingexposed.com.

There was a time when growing buds the length of a man's arm that dwarfed the circumference of a 12 ounce beer can was good enough. When everyone in his area started growing cross-strains like White Cheese, grower Tim knew he had to do more than grow a designer strain to create a sought after product. And how could he guarantee consistency crop after crop?

I have 10 to 12 different strains and the biggest factors for me are height and flowering time. I'm looking for no more than an eight-week strain, and, of course, one that looks and smells incredible," says Tim. "Each strain has different traits so you need a few rounds to get familiar with each one, and there are so many nutrients on the market that you have to make sure a product isn't just a pretty label."

Tim, who grows in the Kootenays where indoor gardens are going up like crazy, explained some of the characteristics he was looking for. "I have 10 to 12 different strains and the biggest factors for me are height and flowering time. I'm looking for no more than an eight-week strain, and, of course, one that looks and smells incredible," says Tim. "Each strain has different traits so you need a few rounds to get familiar with each one, and there are so many nutrients on the market that you have to make sure a product isn't just a pretty label."

After using Green Planet Nutrients Hydro Fuel for the last 10 years, a year ago Tim made the switch to the company's new two-part formula, called Dual Fuel, when he spotted it at his local hydro shop Pacific Northwest Garden Supply. He says the switch was super easy and the results immediate.

"I think this is the one for me," he says. "The thing I like about Dual Fuel is that I use equal parts as I feed throughout the cycle and I reuse my medium when they go into the flower room, so I re-pot with the same medium and the plants really like it. The plants are only seven inches when I kick them and end up being 30 inches. I also don't get salt buildup so I can feed longer throughout the cycle. Oh, and it's really reasonably priced."

Having grown for 25 years, Tim says he's used every system imaginable. About 12 years ago, when he started running into problems with rockwool, like forgetting to run a pump and losing crops, he made the switch to dirt. He currently runs a four-to-one system with two flowering rooms containing 250 square feet of growing space, custom-built rolling tables. The individual rooms are powered by 16 750 Watt double-ended Gavitas with a horizontal mount, and a small shade. His garden is sealed with a good cooling system that uses air conditioning and CO2.

"The Green Planet guys obviously do their research."

"The thing with my system is, I do all of my own cloning and vegging. I clone from the mother room and the plants get put into the cloning chamber in four-inch pots, where they veg from one to three weeks, and end up in the flowering room to veg for another seven days," Tim tells us.

Following the Dual Fuel chart, Tim adds Green Planet's Massive Bloom Formulation, Liquid W-6, Terpinator, Pro Cal and Finisher to make sure his plants, which currently include Great White Shark, White Cookies, Dark Angel and Crown Royal, have everything they need.

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Exactly... that's exactly the age. But you were weaned on some pretty abstract humor, right, by your mom?

Yeah. When we were young, my mother had a truck-stop waitress's sense of humor. So when we were kids saying "fuck," she was on board... and farts were funny too. But she established a lot of it.

The thing of it is, important comedy comes from somewhere. It's built in and, as I remember reading, essentially by the age of 3 years old, we're cooked, we're done—that's who we are. So that was built into you. The timing was built in, because you don't learn that shit now. You just don't learn it now... it's lost.

The one thing I've learned is, I never try to analyze it. I don't know why the fuck I do, I just do. And it works... You don't know why you are what you are—stop fucking asking questions when you're just throwing darts at the answers.

Yeah, Hunter Thompson very wisely said, "Buy the ticket, take the ride." People are so afraid of the ride, or so hooked on the result of the ride—

Or the meaning to the ride.

That's exactly it. What I hope is that—right before that hideous, God-awful moment of the funny face and just "Toodle-oo!"—they don't have the thought: "Aw shit, none of this meant anything. I labored, I worried, I searched, I prayed—I did all this. It's all horseshit..."

I have no answers, but every day I wish I could have the same point of view for any 24-hour period. I wish I was in some system where I don't constantly question myself.

Well, of course. But I think it's a good thing that you don't necessarily audit—I can't see you holding back. I mean, I don't remember you telling me about any performance that you just felt was an absolute dog. I can't see you saying, "All right, I'm sorry," or whatever. I just see you plowing through.

Oh, no, there were lots of fucking tragic messes coming up. *(Laughs)* I mean, it took a lot of failures to beat this kind of callus onto my back. Those are still the funniest stories. No one lays back in their chaise lounge and goes, "Hey, remember that time I killed in Cincinnati?" No, you talk about the beatings. Kind of like war veterans.

Sure. It's sort of like when I did my first few movies—in my mind, I was still a musician, so I never really made a conscious decision to become an actor. It just happened because I needed dough, and I was asked to audition for something, and I did and I got it. You know, it was just a weird cycle of events.

Yes. Sometimes I understand why people would hate you: "Yeah, I was trying to be in a band, but I had to do 'movie star' as my side gig."

Yeah—and again, I will never be the fucking whiny actor going, "Oh, poor fucking me." You know, people want to take their photograph with you. When they stop wanting to take a photograph with you, that's when you should fucking worry, I suppose, in this racket.

I say the same thing about weed. People always try to palm me weed when I'm always talking about how I don't smoke weed. But

they always try to... and when they stop offering me weed, then I'm going to feel kind of out of touch, like: "What did I do wrong that you won't offer me drugs that I don't do?" Because I'll trade those drugs out for drugs that I do do.

What is your relationship with marijuana these days?

I gave marijuana every possible opportunity to work for me ever since I was 13—and now I'm 50. I remember being a kid, skipping school and smoking weed and going home and just having the bed spins, hiding from my dad when he came home early from work... and up until a couple years ago, eating brownies: "Well, no, if you eat this edible, it's different." It's never different. Some people, weed doesn't work for. Joe Rogan—I smoked some of his [pot]. Joe Rogan is the most radical, hard-core weed smoker—like I am as an alcoholic. I can sometimes drink 20 drinks in a night and still maintain. Rogan can smoke this monster weed, where I just took a hit and fell apart—to the point where he had to tweet people that were at the show: "Sorry about Doug Stanhope's performance. I'm to blame. #weedforeverone."

***(Laughs)* Okay, this is a weird question, because I don't know how to do this at all. I've tried like hell, but it just doesn't work for me yet. Do you have the ability to unwind? If you do, how the fuck do you do it? Because I'd like to know.**

It's [hard], because there's always something that needs to be done, and you know this. But three years ago, I did my own personal rehab. I have an old vintage trailer on my



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property, and I sat in it for 30 days. Two drinks a day, no smoking, because I was trying to quit smoking—that’ll kill me long before alcohol does. We podcasted every day, even if it was just 10 minutes, and I’d put out how it was going, and it was good.

Did you find yourself a bit jumpy?

(Laughs) Jumpy, yes, but if you tell people, “Listen, I’m going to rehab,” they think it’s dire straits. No, I just need you to stop fucking calling me. I need to make it sound dire because, if I say, “Hey, I’m starting to get in better health,” they go, “Well, fuck you. Jimmy’s only in town for two days. You’ve got to drink with us!” So if you say “rehab,” they go: “Oh, you must be dying!” You have to bring it to extremes before people stop fucking with you. So I was in my own rehab for 30 days. But I felt so much better. I didn’t wake up every day thinking about dying. I felt great. So, yeah, I go on rehabs.

(Laughs)

Let’s do the worst sitcom ever... just for fun.

I could do that in my sleep.

There’s a lot of money in it. You can have it—I’d just like to be part of a fucking prank. I just want to fuck stuff up. Not in a suicide-vest kind of way, but just to goof on this whole stupid fucking industry.

Exactly—

I’ll do it high. I just want to be the guy that’s awkwardly high in every episode. I get high and I can’t talk to anybody. But out of respect for *High Times*, I’ll get high in every episode and then I won’t say shit. Because that wouldn’t be acting.

Well, you’d have to actually get high, though.

Yeah, I know. That way, I wouldn’t have to act—I’d just sit there paralyzed and wouldn’t make eye contact.

(Laughs) Here’s another question that I’d really love to know your answer to. Since coming up the ranks and everything, people kept talking about this thing “success,” and it confused me. I really didn’t understand success. I couldn’t quite get a visual of it, or a feeling of what it was supposed to be. I didn’t know what any of it meant. Do you have a visual for success? What does it look like to you?

I think I have, like, 12 or 14 albums out, and I think it’s the second one where I talked about people saying, “Hey, keep with it. You’re going to make it someday.” And I said, “I thought I already did... I’m doing comedy for a living.”

Right.

Comedy fucked me in that I never had an adulthood. It stole that from me. I started it at 23 and now I’m 50, and all I do for a living is get drunk and yell at people. I never get to be an adult. Yeah, I’ve been a kid my whole stupid life.

One of the most brilliant things you said in *No Refunds* was, “You die at the end, stupid. Didn’t anybody tell you?”

If I had a catchphrase, that would be it: “You die at the end.” You’re worrying about fucking minor shit, and so-and-so said something over the other side of the cubicle about your work ethic? You’re dead at the end. Is that what you’re going to worry about?

Q&A WITH THE HIGH TIMES STAFF

HT: What do you think of the current cannabis-legalization trend?

STANHOPE: I think it’s destroying a great black-market economy for people who were otherwise unemployable. You used to buy your weed from Sean at his bachelor apartment behind Applebee’s next to the fire station. You were happy, Sean was happy. Then all of a sudden they’re selling weed at Walgreen’s, and anyone with a plantar’s wart or a bad haircut can get a medical marijuana card. Now Sean is fucked: Not only is his under-the-table livelihood ripped out from under him; now he doesn’t even have those friends that used to pretend to like him. Sure, he can still sell weed, but he’ll have to do it at Walgreen’s wearing a blue smock and a nametag for nine bucks an hour before taxes... if he can pass the drug test, that is.

HT: Do you have any desire to get involved in the cannabis industry?

STANHOPE: If I were money-motivated, I would spread insidious lies that marijuana is dangerous and addictive and leads to dancing with white women, that your children are at risk of riding that freight train straight into hell or an opium den. Then I’d parlay that fear into a chain of overpriced “rehab” centers that can cure them and shake Satan from their souls. But I am not that ambitious. I am a drunk. ✨

HIGHLIGHTS

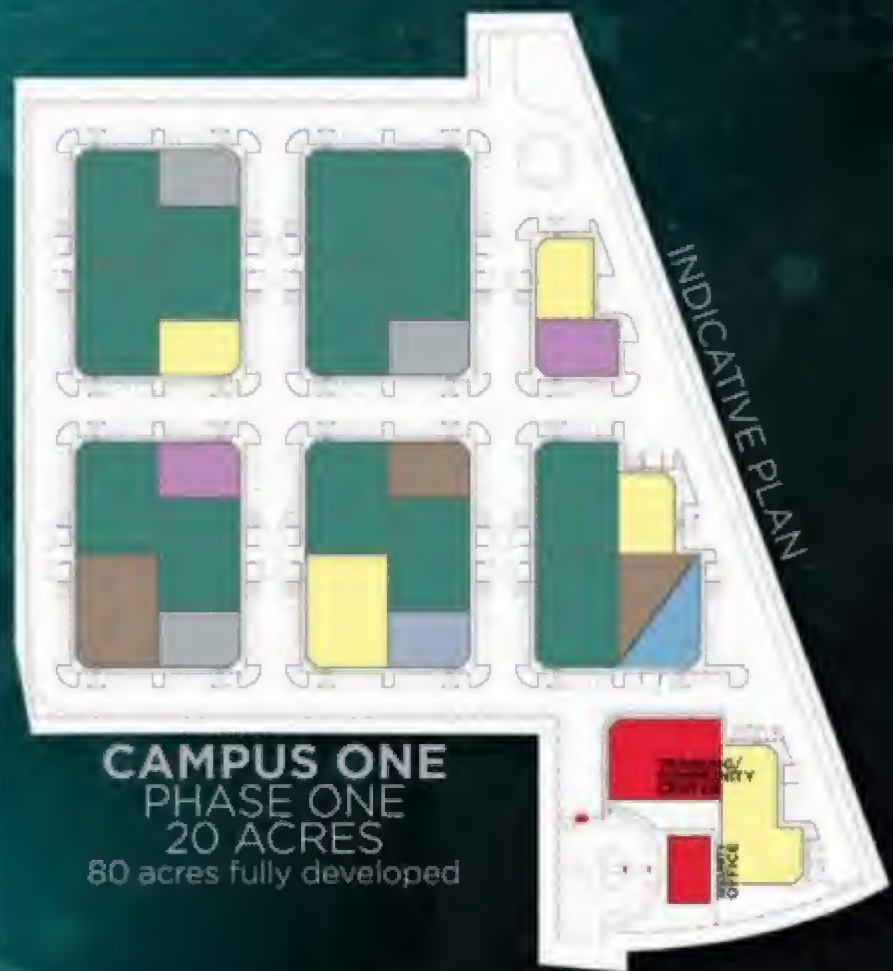
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RUTH WHITEFEATHER FELDMAN

A DISJOINTED INTERVIEW

“HOW CAN I HEALP YOU?”

THE QUESTION, ALONG WITH THE PUNGENT SMELL OF DANK HERB, HANGS IN THE AIR AT RUTH'S ALTERNATIVE CARING, ONE OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S MOST FAMOUS (AND DEFINITELY NONFICTIONAL) DISPENSARIES, HAVING BEEN LILTINGLY POSED BY ITS EPONYMOUS OWNER, RUTH WHITEFEATHER FELDMAN—LEGENDARY CANNABIS ACTIVIST, CRUSADER, LAWYER AND, EVEN AS WE SPEAK, USER.

MANY READERS MAY NOT REMEMBER RUTH (OR, FOR THAT MATTER, WHERE THEY LEFT THEIR CAR KEYS). BUT THOSE IN THE KNOW SAY THAT “MAMA RUTH” IS THE UNSUNG HERO OF THE LEGALIZATION MOVEMENT. FOR EXAMPLE: “MAMA RUTH IS THE UNSUNG HERO OF THE LEGALIZATION MOVEMENT,” SAYS CANNABIS ENTREPRENEUSE DINA BROWNER, A LONGTIME FRIEND AND SCRABBLE PARTNER. “SHE WAS THE LEADING FORCE BEHIND ALL THE GREAT LANDMARK EVENTS: PROPOSITION 215, PROPOSITION 64, THE FREAKS FOR JUSTICE CONFERENCE, PROPOSITION II, EVEN HEMPITAT FOR HUMANITY. SHE ALSO TAUGHT ME THE RIGHT TECHNIQUE FOR HIDING LARGE STACKS OF CASH IN MY CEILING TILES—TWENTIES IN THE PERIMETER, HUNDREDS IN THE MIDDLE.”

NOW, AS NETFLIX PREPARES TO LAUNCH *DISJOINTED*, A GROUNDBREAKING DOCUMENTARY SERIES ABOUT HER CURRENT LIFE AS A BUSINESS OWNER, MOTHER AND ALL-AROUND YENTA, RUTH—WHO GIVES HER AGE AS “SOMEWHERE BETWEEN THE SPEED LIMIT AND BODY TEMPERATURE”—SAT DOWN TO DISCUSS LIFE AND GIGGLE.



Ms. Feldman
hard at work
behind the
counter of
Ruth's Alterna-
tive Caring



"Travis is like the son I never had. Until I had him and he was born. At that point, he became the son I already had... and he still is."

First of all, Ruth, thanks for agreeing to this interview. It's an honor to finally have you.

Yeah, what took you so long?

Our intern Sarah has been e-mailing you for the last 15 years.

She has?

Yeah. Is your e-mail still Clinton4Prez92@compuserve.com?

[Pause] Let me check with our IT department. [Yelling] Travis! [Editor's note: At this point, a brief, tense conversation ensues between Ruth and Travis, her surprisingly black son.] Sounds like Sarah's fault.

Probably. She's 40 and still an intern. The lights aren't all on in that attic. So, Ruth, tell us about your first cannabis experience.

I remember it like it was yesterday. The details are still vivid in my mind. [Pauses for 20 seconds] I was somewhere with some guy—or maybe it was a girl. I think I was a teenager, maybe, and I smoked pot and it felt really good. Then we watched a movie and ate something. No, we had sex. So it was

probably a guy. [Thinks] You know, now that I think about it, maybe that was yesterday. [Yells to Travis again] Travis! Did I get high yesterday? [Editor's note: A brief half-hour exchange ensues.] Yes.

Fascinating. Sounds like your roots go deep.

Oh, sweetie, I don't worry about my roots now. I just let it go gray. That goes for downstairs too, if you know what I mean.

I do.

I mean my pubic hair.

Oh. Guess I didn't know what you meant.

What did you think I meant?

I thought you meant you had a garden in your basement.

[Chuckles]

It's funny you bring that up, though, because my boyfriend, Zeke, just asked me to get a Brazilian, and I was just like—

You're not doing that.

That's what I said! I was like, "It's none of your business, especially after only two months!"

Two months and he's already micro-pube-managing?

Well, we were friends for a long time before that.

So what happened?

It's a long story.

I got time—Olivia, Carter, Jenny and Pete are running the store. [Editor's note: Olivia, Carter, Jenny and Pete are all characters employees who act work alongside Ruth and have any number of amusing idiosyncrasies and quirks.]

Mind if I smoke?

Please, you're at Ruth's. When you're here, you're high.

Thanks. [Smokes] This stuff just really gives me laser focus, you know.

[Editor's note: At this point, the interviewer became fascinated by the buttons on the recording device, accidentally turning it off for an indeterminate amount of time.]

Oh, look, the red light's back on!... So anyway, things have been a little weird between Zeke and me ever since his

sister called me a dick-tramp.

Wow. And this is the sister you were sleeping with before you met Zeke?

Yes, when I was a lesbian.

When you *were*? [Chuckles]

Anyway, where were we?

California.

No, in the conversation.

Don't remember. My guess would be my status as an icon.

Yes. Right. You've spent the last 50 years as a leader in the cannabis industry. I bet you've gotten hella high with some famous people.

Oh, yeah. I'm not one to gossip. But ask me about Willie Nelson.

Tell me about Willie Nel—

So it's 1973. I'm backstage with Willie for the first Fourth of July Picnic Festival at Hurlbut Ranch. [Editor's note: 10 minutes of giggling ensues.]

You said "butt." [Giggles]

[Giggles] Yeah, with a name like that, he didn't stand a chance. So, Willie and I are trying a new strain, something he said he got from Hurlbut himself. [Editor's note: Three minutes of giggling ensues.] I don't know what's in this stuff, but whatever it is, Willie and I feel electric. Next thing I know, I'm on the stage singing "On the Road Again" with my pants down to my ankles, my shirt on my legs, and my hat on my chest. [Editor's note: "On the Road Again" was written in 1979.]

Amazing. How about Bob Marley? Did you know him?

A little. I helped organize his museum in Jamaica. I was there for the grand opening. That's when I suggested they add bathrooms. The director said, "Ruth, don't worry 'bout a t'ing." I said, "No, I'm gonna worry about this one. The visitors need a place to piss and shit." But two weeks later, every little t'ing was all right.

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dispensary

and hands the interviewer a surprisingly black tissue.]

Thank you. Your son's so sweet.

He's overcompensating for his past. Travis recently came on board after a trip to the dark side.

TRAVIS: I got an MBA.

Wow, Travis, I can't even imagine what it was like to have Ruth as your mother.

TRAVIS: Yeah, there were a lot of times I had to imagine it, too.

RUTH: Travis, sweetie, why don't you go talk to Carter? He seems a little tense today. [Travis leaves.] Carter, our security guard, is a veteran who's dealing with some... issues.

Is he using cannabis?

Not yet, but we're trying. As you know, there's tons of evidence about the benefits of cannabis for treating not only PTSD, but other mental conditions like bipolar disorder and being a dick.

I didn't know being a dick was an illness.

That's because it's so common, we've accepted it as normal.

Zeke doesn't partake.

That's 'cause he's a dick.

He is kind of a dick, right?

You deserve so much better. You have your whole life ahead of you.

All right, I wanted to get an unbiased third-party opinion about something that happened last week with Zeke.

I'm all ears.

Okay, so, we were at a bar and I'd just dropped acid, but it hadn't kicked in yet, and all of a sudden, he whips out his—

[Editor's note: Continued on page 420.]

Are you tight with Snoop Dogg?

Yeah. I was with him the night he decided to change his name to Lion. I suggested Snoop Wolf, you know, just to keep the dog theme alive, but he told me nothing rhymes with "wolf."

Yeah, like "orange."

What are you talking about? "Wolf" doesn't rhyme with "orange."

No, I mean nothing rhymes with it.

What do you mean? "Fit," "bit," "hit" ...

No, I mean nothing rhymes with "orange."

Not really. "Nothing," "orange"—those two words don't rhyme at all.

I think we may be off-topic here.

Yeah, I think so, Sondheim. [Rolls eyes] Speaking of songwriters, Joni Mitchell and I go way back. That famous road trip she took where she wrote *Hejira*? I was with her. We'd

get high and camp out under the stars. She'd strum her guitar and compose while I played drums with two sticks and a dead agave plant. She wrote "Song for Sharon" just for me.

But you're Ruth.

I am...

So why'd she call you Sharon?

Because she was sharin' the credit. [Editor's note: Ruth waits for a laugh that never comes.] Joni's a class act—we've known each other forever.

I love Joni Mitchell. I tried to get Zeke into her, but he was like, "Eh, it's too girly." He's more of a Chainsmokers guy.

Who?

The Chainsmokers... they're like EDM.

What?

Electronic dance music.

[Squints] I gotta tell you, this Zeke sounds like an asshole.

Well, let's move on. Jump back for a second to 1972, when you gave your famous "Wooo in Rage" speech. "We 'wooo' in anger! We 'wooo' for justice! We 'wooo' for those who have had their freedom taken away and can no longer 'wooo' for themselves!"

Wow, I'm impressed—I mean, wooo, I'm impressed.

Oh, yeah. Those words get me out of bed in the morning. Really powerful stuff.

Thank you. I got the idea when I noticed that every time I said "marijuana"—

Wooo!

—people tended to say the word "wooo." I don't know what it is about "marijuana"—

Wooo!

—that does that. It's an automatic-response thing. It's Pavlovian.

Wooo!

Yeah, the word "Pavlovian" does it too. [Editor's note: At this point, Travis crosses over

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ALL EPISODES
AUGUST 25

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"This is the crew of Ruth's Alternative Caring. We have a lot of fun here. Usually in half-hour intervals."

According to Ruth

Ruth Sez ... Top Five Trippiest Crayons to Stare at When You're High:

- 5) Tickle Me Pink
- 4) Macaroni and Cheese
- 3) Polka Dots
- 2) Scarlett Johansson
- 1) Blue or greenish-blue.

Ruth Sez ... Top Five Favorite Strains:

- 5) Vin Diesel ("A faster, more furious version of Sour Diesel. Often confused with The Rock Diesel.")
- 4) Rhode Island Thunderfuck ("More manageable than its Alaskan cousin: You can breeze right through it in 35 minutes!")
- 3) Placebo ("Direct from a government testing lab. Perfect for fooling people into thinking they're high, then humiliating them in front of everyone.")
- 2) Spaghetti Bolognese ("Carefully engineered to taste exactly like Spaghetti Bolognese. I always ask for al dente.")
- 1) Nelson's Private Reserve ("Not Willie Nelson—Nelson, the band with the number-one hit "[Can't Live Without Your] Love and Affection.")

Ruth Sez ... Top Five Slang Terms for Marijuana:

- 5) Naughty green
- 4) Derf toast
- 3) Children's mushrooms
- 2) Balls
- 1) Any noun in the English language

Ruth Sez ... Worst Songs to Listen to When You're High:

- 5) "Paranoid," Black Sabbath
- 4) "You're High and Your Mom Knows," Iron Maiden
- 3) "Oh Shit, It's the Cops, Run Run Run Run," the Beatles
- 2) "Memory," from the musical Cats
- 1) Any song by Justin Bieber

Ruth Sez ... Top Five Things I'm Staring at Right Now:

- 5) Blank sheet of paper
- 4) Entry for #5 on this list
- 3) Entry for #4 on this list
- 2) Empty spot in space four feet in front of me
- 1) Who cares, I finished the assignment, motherfucker.

KATHY
BATES



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The *indica* Hash Plant is a heavy feeder.



SUBJECT: **Nutrients for Specific Strains**
FROM: **Chuckie Trichome**

🌿 I have a newbie grow question for you. I've heard that there are certain strains that require a larger or smaller concentration of one or all of the three main macronutrients in order to help the plant reach its full potential. So I'm wondering if there are strains that require different concentrations of micronutrients or that do better in certain grow mediums, and if this is something that will have a significant enough effect to be worth worrying about.

Dear Chuckie,
Strains do have different nutrient requirements. *Sativa*-dominant strains tend to be lighter feeders than *indicas*, meaning that they need lower quantities (expressed in ppm, or parts per million) of the three main macronutrients—nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium—as well as micronutrients.

Some strains, typically *indicas* like Hash Plant and Grand Daddy Purp, are big nitrogen hogs and require heavier feeding than hybrids or *sativas*. Also, some strains prefer to be watered more often than others. The best thing you can do is to grow out a strain many times in order to learn its requirements and preferences. Once you get to know a strain, you'll instinctively be able to process what the plant is asking you for and how much to provide in response.

Danko Tip: Never point a fan directly at your hanging branches after harvest—the buds will dry out too quickly and burn improperly.



Drip systems feed plants directly at their roots.

SUBJECT: **Clear Plastic Cups**

FROM: **Hans**

🌱 I transplanted some clones into clear plastic cups using Happy Frog potting soil and Plant Success Granular to maximize root growth. It's been a couple of days, and I have watered the clones as needed. I noticed today, though, that there appears to be a green moss or fungus developing around the root-ball. Do you have any idea what this is and what I might do to get rid of it? Thank you very much.

Dear Hans,

What you're seeing is algae that has grown inside your container. The clear plastic cups you're using allow light to reach the wet medium, creating the perfect conditions for this mossy mess to develop and begin competing with your plants for nutrients (as well as creating a breeding ground for pests and harmful molds). You should transplant your clones immediately into larger, opaque containers with plenty of soil mix. That way, you'll avoid the conditions that allow algae to develop in your medium, since it is by no means beneficial and can be quite harmful to boot.

SUBJECT: **Clones Won't Root**

FROM: **NSL**

🌱 My clones are only surviving at about a 30% rate. I use Dip Root hormone solution, and I've tried putting them in several different kinds of mediums—rockwool cubes, cotton cubes, Roto Rooter—but I still get the same lousy survival rate. What advice can you give me for more successful rooting? I'm at my wit's end.

Dear NSL,

The two most important factors in rooting clones are high humidity and heat for the plants. Because your cuttings are without roots in the beginning of the cloning process, they can only take in water through their cut ends and transpire through their leaves, so they must always be kept moist. A clear plastic lid will create enough humidity inside a cloning tray to raise your rate of successfully rooted clones. Cutting a couple of quarter-sized holes in the clear lid will keep enough air flowing to prevent mold and rot in the root zone.

SUBJECT: **Drip Systems**

FROM: **Tick Tock**

🌱 I've heard of growers using individual lines to feed their plants drop by drop all day. Is this effective, and if so, how would I go about setting up something like that for myself? Thanks!

Dear TT,

You're referring to the hydroponic-growing method known as the drip system, in which tubing connected to each plant in your growroom draws liquid nutrient solution from a central reservoir and dispenses it via drip emitters, which sit at plant level and control how much water

the roots receive.

First, you need enough tubing to reach all of the plants in your room. Drip systems are quite versatile, and you can customize them to fit almost any space or number of plants. Cut the tubing in the lengths you need and secure a drip emitter on the end of each piece. Then firmly press the emitter into your growing medium. Attach the reservoir end to your underwater pump and set the timer to drip as needed (typically about 10 minutes every two or three hours during the "daytime" part of the light cycle). You will need to increase or decrease the feedings based on your plants' size and nutritional requirements.

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Danko Tip: Dead leaves and plant debris on floors are a breeding ground for pests. Keep growroom surfaces clean at all times.

Never let your clones sit in a chilly medium or a cold nutrient solution. (Even room temperature is too cold for proper rooting.) Place a cheap electrical heating mat specifically made for cloning underneath your tray; this will greatly increase your success rate. Warmth encourages the cut ends to send out roots so that, under the right conditions, you'll soon have a high percentage of young rooted clones ready to get bigger and blossom.



Use a sharp blade when taking cuttings.

SUBJECT: **Nutrients and Light**

FROM: **Salsa Verde**

🌱 Virtually every nutrient product I've seen has instructions on the label saying to store them in a cool, dark place. But they aren't kept in the dark at grow stores, so what's up with that? Also, does this lead to a degradation of the products or lessen their effectiveness if they're stored in a non-dark area?

Dear Salsa,

The hope is that the grow store won't have the product in stock long enough to do any real damage to the nutes. The real problem arises when growers store their nutrients in their growroom, where they're exposed to high-intensity discharge (HID) lighting. Many times I've seen fertilizer bottles kept on a shelf in a brightly lit grow space, and they will degrade quickly under that scenario.

Some grow shops will show only display bottles and keep the actual product in a dark back room, but these places are few and far between. The best way to ensure that you're buying a fresh product that hasn't sat on a store shelf for months under fluorescent lighting or, God forbid, sunlight is to ask the clerk if there are any sealed boxes of the nutrients you desire. Then, once you get the bottles home, you should store them in a cool, dark place for the best longevity.

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SUBJECT: **Homemade Spider-Mite Spray**

FROM **Craig K.**

🌿 I've tried lots of ways to kill mites, and I've found that one tablespoon of lemon oil and one drop of dish soap mixed with a half-gallon of water works surprisingly well. Simply shake well, then spray until the leaves are drenched on top and underneath as well as the stems. The plants don't seem to mind the spraying at all, and all the mites and eggs are dead the next day. Remember to spray again after a few days to make sure no bugs were able to hide from the first spraying. This solution is cheap and works as well as or better than anything else I've tried. Please try it yourself, then help the masses out and pass the info along.

Dear Craig,
Thanks for the tip, and I will pass it along to the readers!

SUBJECT: **Can't Find Bud**

FROM **C.RUSH**

🌿 I live in Virginia, which is a not-so-friendly

state with zero tolerance for the green (although our capital has working medical programs, something I still struggle to understand). After unfortunately losing my connect to the Feds, I've had to resort to other not-so-great means of trying to obtain small amounts of bud.

Despite searching and shuffling through various online scam sites; attempting to deal with bitcoin and the darker web sites and even awkwardly trying to spot the stoner-looking stereotype in my local rural camo-hat-with-fishhook-type crowd, it has proven exceedingly difficult just to cop an eighth.

I feel like I'm at my wit's end, like I might as well go down to the local PD and ask how much it would cost to purchase a key to their evidence room. Thankfully, the medical disorders I have aren't as severe or as life-threatening as some, but for fuck's sake, I'm just trying to get a little bud here, not heroin. With seemingly nowhere else to turn, what would you do in my situation?

Dear C.RUSH,
Unless you can find a new connection, you basically have two choices: move or

grow your own.

My first inclination is to advise you to move to a safer location. Having seen how easy it is to score cannabis flowers, concentrates, tinctures, edibles and topicals in states where marijuana laws have been reformed, I can't in good conscience recommend that you stay in a place so strict, harsh and unbending as Virginia. If relocation is at all possible, please consider a place like Colorado, Oregon, Washington or any of the other states that have eased their cannabis laws. At the very least, visit one of those places to determine if a move would be in your best interests.

If you insist on staying in Virginia or are unable to leave due to circumstances, you can try to grow your own. Just keep in mind that the law will not be sympathetic even if you're taking it medicinally, so the factors that are keeping you in Virginia might become less important in the face of possible legal consequences like stiff fines and/or prison time. And please do whatever you can to help change the laws where you live so that nobody has to deal with this type of distressful dilemma again. 🌿

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JAMAICAN JERK CHICKEN

Make your marinated chicken the Marley way!

By *Cedella Marley*

You're definitely going to get invited to a lot more parties if you show up with a platter of herb-boosted jerk chicken. Is there any dish at all better for an outdoor summer gathering? I think not. The smell of spicy jerk chicken grilling away stokes the appetite like no other (even if you don't eat meat!). I make sure to buy chicken that was raised in humane and healthy conditions so I can feel good about what I am giving my guests to put into their bodies. You can also grill up some jerk vegetables or serve plain vegetables with the extra barbecue sauce for your vegetarian friends.

GRILLED JERK CHICKEN WITH TAMARIND BARBECUE SAUCE

Serves four (5 mg THC per serving), with leftover barbecue sauce.

Jerk Chicken

1 tbsp. plus 1 tsp. extra-virgin olive oil or coconut oil
1 tbsp. canna oil
4 garlic cloves, minced
2 tbsp. jerk seasoning
¼ tsp. fine sea salt
4 bone-in, skin-on chicken thighs
4 organic chicken drumsticks

Tamarind Barbecue Sauce

2 tbsp. coconut oil
1 medium red onion, quartered
3 garlic cloves, smashed
1 tbsp. grated fresh ginger
2 tbsp. chili powder
1 tbsp. smoked paprika
2 tsp. fine sea salt
1 tsp. freshly ground black pepper
¼ cup tomato paste
1 can (14 oz.) diced tomatoes (with juices)
3 tbsp. tamarind concentrate
2 tbsp. Dijon mustard
2 tbsp. honey

2 tbsp. molasses
2 tbsp. dark-brown sugar
1 Scotch bonnet pepper, roughly chopped

1. Marinate the chicken: Whisk the oil, canna oil, garlic, salt and jerk seasoning together in a large bowl. Add the chicken thighs and drumsticks and turn to coat evenly with the mixture. Cover the bowl with plastic wrap, and refrigerate for at least eight hours or overnight.

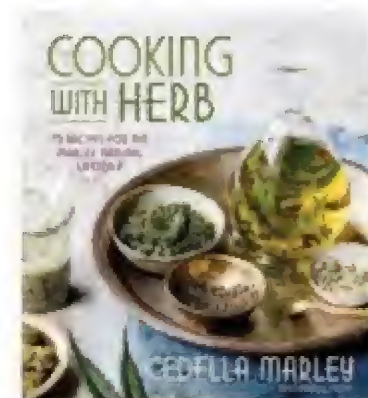
2. Make the tamarind barbecue sauce: Heat the coconut oil in a medium saucepan over medium-high heat. Add the onion and cook, stirring occasionally, until it starts to brown, two to three minutes. Reduce the heat to medium and stir in the garlic, ginger, chili powder, paprika, salt and pepper, then cook, stirring, until it is fragrant, about 30 seconds. Stir in the tomato paste and cook, stirring often, until the paste darkens, about two minutes, then deglaze the pan with ½ cup of water, stirring and scraping any browned bits up from the bottom of the pan. Stir in the diced tomatoes, tamarind concentrate, mustard, honey, molasses and brown sugar. Add the Scotch bonnet pepper and reduce the heat to medium-low. Simmer gently, stirring occasionally, for 20 minutes.

3. Transfer the barbecue sauce to a blender. Carefully pulse once or twice to let off some steam, then blend until smooth. Return to the saucepan and continue to cook over medium-low heat, stirring occasionally, until the sauce reduces a little and thickens slightly, about 15 minutes. Pour 1 cup of barbecue sauce into a small bowl (refrigerate the rest of the barbecue sauce for up to two weeks, or freeze 1-cup portions in resealable freezer bags for up to six months).

4. Make a medium-hot fire in a charcoal grill, or heat a gas grill to medium. Grease the grill's grates using grilling tongs and a paper towel dipped in oil. Set

the chicken on the grill, skin-side down, and cook until lightly charred on both sides, 12 to 16 minutes total. Brush the chicken on both sides with the sauce and continue to cook, turning and basting often, until the chicken is cooked through or an instant-read thermometer inserted into the thigh reads 160°F, about eight minutes longer. Transfer to a platter and serve.

Note: Since the chicken probably won't absorb all of the THC from the canna oil in the marinade, I use 1 tablespoon of the oil for four servings instead of 2 teaspoons. If you like, add some canna oil to the leftover barbecue sauce (2 teaspoons for four servings) and serve it alongside the chicken for dipping. ✨



Cooking With Herb presents cannabis cuisine with authentic Jamaican flair, including classic dishes like this jerk-chicken recipe, as well as spicy patties, salt fish, mango salads and other fresh, healthy fare enjoyed by the Marley family. Helpful instructions make it easy to dose your dishes with THC, so all you have to do is sit back and get irie!

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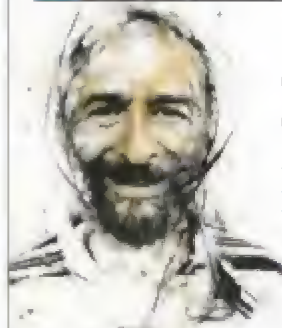
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CBD can really take the edge off anxiety.



Can cannabidiol really help with anxiety?

Jess Stress

Hi Jess,
 For starters, anxiety responds well to psychological treatments, so don't hesitate to go to abct.org to find a good therapist. (A few sessions can work wonders!) Nevertheless, CBD has shown consistent anxiolytic effects in the lab. We first saw CBD taking the edge off THC-induced anxiety more than 30 years ago, so I'm sure it could help folks out in the real world if psychotherapy isn't their thing.

Is it true that getting rid of prohibition gives law enforcement more time to fight other crimes, so the overall crime rate drops?

Bruce Wayne

Yo Bruce,
 Have you noticed how cannabis and cannabis-law reform are expected to do more and more each year? Truth is, the states with decrim, recreational or medical marijuana report fewer property or violent crimes, but the differences haven't reached statistical significance yet.

Ending pot prohibition is the right thing to do because it's immoral to penalize citizens for owning a plant. Let's not expect it to fix every other problem in the world, too.

Doesn't cannabidiol turn into THC in the stomach?

Buck Leadbelly

Hey Buck,
 Nope. A study that used simulated stomach acid kind of found the result you mention, but giving real CBD to real people doesn't lead to a detectable amount of THC in real bodies. In one experiment, researchers gave people a total of 600 mg of CBD, and the subjects never showed meaningful levels of THC in their blood.

I notice that friends of the plant are more likely to experience meaningful meditations. Any research on this idea?

Ma Hash Reeshi

Hey Ma,
 Not exactly, but research does show that the personal trait "absorption" seems to be higher among cannabis users. People who score high on absorption are more likely to report vibrant memories, vivid imaginations and getting into altered states. So it wouldn't surprise me if they had meaningful meditations, but no one seems to have looked into that directly. ✨

Dr. Mitch Earleywine, PhD, is the author of *Understanding Marijuana* and *The Parents' Guide to Marijuana*.

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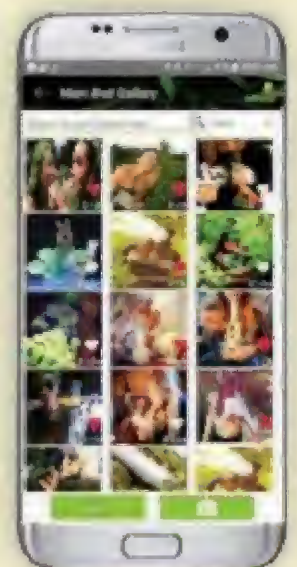
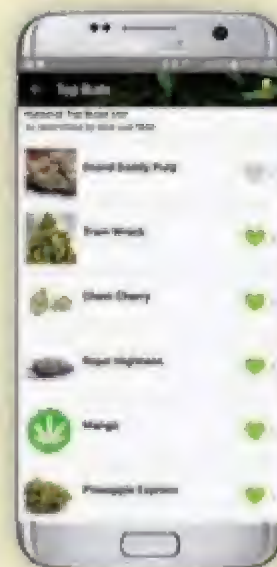
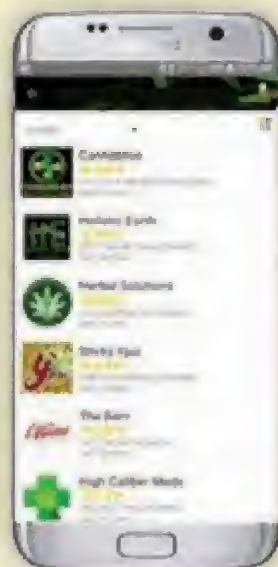
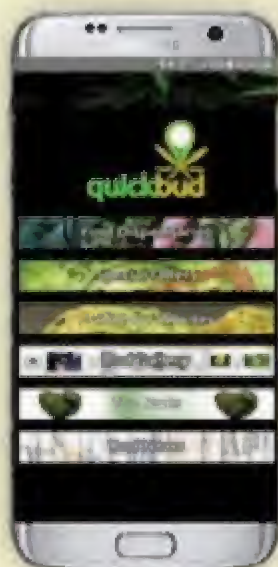
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Stop Blocking Progress

Meet Steve Cook, the newest drug warrior in the Department of Justice.

Justin Strekal is the political director of NORML. Visit norml.org.

DO YOU LIVE in a state that has reformed its marijuana laws? If so, that's increasingly normal: Eight states have enacted full legalization, 30 have passed or implemented medical marijuana programs, and 16 have authorized the limited use of non-intoxicating CBD.

All of these laws have been liberalized in the past 20 years under the continuing umbrella of federal prohibition. While there have been issues with particular raids and seizures, the tensions caused by this disparity between state and federal marijuana laws have been eased over the last few years by what became known as the Cole Memo. This Justice Department memorandum, written by Deputy Attorney General James Cole in 2013 and directed to the US Attorneys in all 50 states, instructed prosecutors not to interfere with state legalization efforts or those licensed to engage in the plant's production and sale, provided that such persons did not sell marijuana to minors or divert the product to states that have not legalized its use, among other guidelines.

But with the dawn of the Trump era, the pot prohibitionists see their chance to roll back this hard-won progress. One prominent foe of marijuana-law reform

is Cully Stimson, a senior legal fellow at the ultraconservative Heritage Foundation. Writing earlier this year, Stimson argued that the Justice Department, under President Trump's new attorney general, Jeff Sessions, should "rescind and replace" the Cole Memo "by reiterating that marijuana cultivation, distribution, and sale are against federal law and that while states may decriminalize possession of marijuana, they may not issue licenses to sell it or commercialize it."

This message has now been taken up by Steve Cook, the associate deputy attorney general fresh off completing the Justice Department's new sentencing memo, which directs the nation's federal prosecutors to seek the steepest possible penalties for suspects charged with drug crimes—reversing another Obama administration policy. This move will send more people to prison for longer periods of time and is yet another step in the revival of failed Drug War policies that engender disrespect for the law and disproportionately affect communities of color. Cook has now been detailed to the DOJ's Task Force on Crime Reduction and Public Safety, which is charged with releasing new guidelines no later than July 27 on a range of issues, including marijuana.

Cook and Sessions are essentially in lock step advocating for the failed policies of the "Just Say No" era—policies that resulted in the arrests of millions of otherwise law-abiding citizens simply for possessing personal-use amounts of marijuana. With the majority of states now allowing and regulating some form of cannabis use, and with six out of 10 voters endorsing adult use, it makes no sense from a political, fiscal or cultural perspective to try to put this genie back in the bottle.

As the Justice Department contemplates its next move, state leaders are already taking action. Recently, Washington Governor Jay Inslee (D), Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper (D), Oregon Governor Kate Brown (D) and Alaska Governor Bill Walker (I) issued a letter to Attorney General Sessions and Treasury Secretary Seth Mnuchin calling on them to uphold the Obama administration's hands-off policy toward marijuana legalization, as outlined in the Cole Memo.

It's high time that members of Congress take action to align federal law with the clear majority of public opinion. To add your voice to this fight, call your representatives in Congress via the congressional switchboard at 202-224-3121, or e-mail them at norml.org/act. ✨

FREEDOM FIGHTER

True Believer

Sonja Sutton discovered firsthand how cannabis can save lives.

As a firm believer in personal liberty, Sonja Sutton always supported the idea of ending pot prohibition, but she never considered herself a marijuana activist. However, all that changed in the spring of 2000, after she received a diagnosis of terminal MFH sarcoma and began aggressive chemotherapy. "As I laid there watching the toxic chemicals go into my chest, I wondered why

the hell this was happening to me," Sonja recalls. "That's when I realized cancer doesn't discriminate."

As with most cancer patients, the chemo caused Sonja to lose her appetite—and even though she was on a regimen of pharmaceuticals, nothing helped with the nausea. Taking matters into her own hands, she began smoking cannabis and immediately regained her appetite.

Since then, Sonja has used a combination of marijuana and



chemo to manage her cancer. And while her doctors won't publicly admit that cannabis has helped, here she is, 17 years later—one of the rare survivors of this type of cancer. "Through my journey as a cancer patient and survivor, I came to realize a variety of uses for cannabis and have become active in the reform of marijuana laws," Sonja says.

Embracing her newfound passion, Sonja immediately sought out volunteer opportunities with North

Carolina NORML, and quickly found herself taking a leadership role.

"NORML—the largest marijuana-advocacy organization in the country—has a mission statement that I truly believe in," Sonja says. "Currently, I serve as the secretary for North Carolina NORML and NORML of the Piedmont Triad. I have lobbied at the state capitol in support of marijuana-law reform, organized fundraisers and, most recently, spoke with Speaker of the House Tim Moore on the issue. This plant saved my life, so I will forever be an activist."

By Kevin Mahmalji, NORML national outreach coordinator



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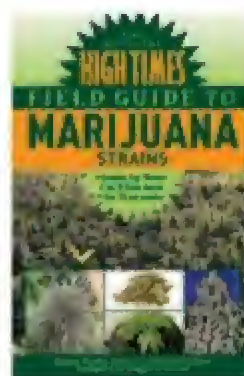


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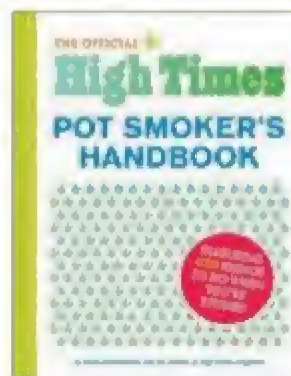
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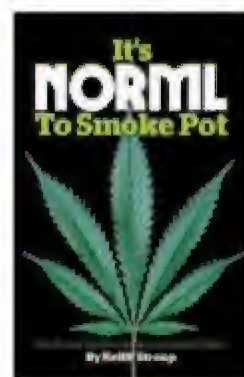
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GROW OF THE MONTH



CLOSET CANNABIS

Looking to choose what to pick out for a night on the town. Looks like I'm wearing green. *Ras Brian*



NUG OF THE MONTH

BLUE & CREAM

Hi, my name is Doren and I'm a budtender at Blackjack Collective in Las Vegas, NV. Check out this Cookies & Cream from Green Life Productions. *@dorenmalik*



CLOSE UP OF THE MONTH



HIGHBORN HYBRID

Here's a shot of my personal Bubba Kush x Grand Daddy Purple cross pheno #1. Peace! *J.D./A.K.A. Cola Monster*

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High Times examines the rapidly changing landscape of psychedelic-assisted therapy and the emergence of exciting research into alternative healing methods.

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Strains and chefs and Nelly, oh my! We return to the Auto City Speedway in Clio, Michigan, for our 2017 Midwest Cannabis Cup. Read all about the fierce competition, incredible installations, endless freebies and dope musical acts that proved to be the real Fire Festival!

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A dizzying variety of CBD products can be found on the market, each with a unique formulation. Variances in strain genetics, growing conditions, and extraction methods become apparent in the chemical composition, taste, and color of the final product. It's evident that some CBD products are simply better than others. Hemplucid's philosophy is that a therapeutically effective extract must honor the whole plant.

Isolate CBD: Extractions from the hemp plant have traditionally been derived from singled-out CBD molecules. This method has been overwhelmingly employed in CBD oils found in the marketplace. Through the process of isolation many potentially beneficial compounds are removed, including phytocannabinoids. We believe this was well-intentioned, but misguided. Studies have indicated that CBD itself has a narrow therapeutic window, with beneficial impacts decreasing significantly at a certain dosage.

Whole Plant CBD: Rather than isolating CBD itself, a whole plant extraction contains hundreds of different compounds, like phytocannabinoids, terpenes, and other phyto-nutrients. These compounds work in combination with CBD, creating what is

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Hemplucid Products Provide:

CBD-Rich Products: Our source material is a CBD dominant genetic back-crossed with a hemp varietal. Higher genetic CBD concentrations allow for more pristine initial extraction. Our extract contains CBD, terpenes, and secondary phytocannabinoids that work synergistically, enhancing bioavailability.

Quality Ingredients: Select products and strict standards of quality control. No high-fructose corn syrup, trans-fats, or other artificial additives. Grown to organic standards and pesticide-free.

Agricultural Hemp: The robust terpene and cannabinoid profile of whole-plant cannabis enhances the therapeutic benefits of CBD. Our hemp is selected for maximum potency rather than seed or fiber, utilizing all aerial parts of the plant.

Safe Extraction: Hemplucid utilizes supercritical CO₂, a gentler method of extraction, free of solvents, resulting in higher quality oil. Gentle filtering and distillation leave valuable terpene profiles intact.

Lab Testing: Hemplucid products are tested to insure a consistent cannabinoid profile, and verified as free of mold, bacteria, pesticides, solvent residues, and other contaminants.

No psychoactive effects: Hemplucid keeps within the legal limits of THC providing a powerful product without the psychoactive effects of THC. Independent testing verifies the legal limit of less than 0.3% THC in our extract.



Hemplucid provides quality products consisting of Water Soluble, MCT Oil, Vapes, Soft Gel Caps, Body Butter, Edibles and more.

Clear Labels: Hemplucid labels celebrate the natural beauty of these extracts. Our products have a manufacturing date and batch number (for quality control). The difference is clear.

Hemplucid is passionate about providing the highest quality phytocannabinoid products on the market. We believe in staying true to the whole hemp plant by providing a full spectrum, terpene-rich hemp extract to assist in general health and well-being.

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More information at hemplucid.com

POT STOCKS: Picking The Right Side Of The Industry For You

Scott Holtby is a Freelance Writer and Researcher with a focus on Cannabis Industries



In a few short years, cannabis has transformed from a risky pas-time to a 'lifestyle industry' with hundreds of new companies vying for marijuana market supremacy. Fueled by trends in legalization and decriminalization, financial markets are awash in securities from firms seeking to become the major players in the decades to come. This has got investors excited, but when we peel back the layers, *what exactly is a pot stock and where does one start?*

Often companies distinguish themselves based on the business activities they operate, be it cultivation or retailing for example. But the legal environment that surrounds the end uses of cannabis dictates where companies can operate, which funding sources are available, and what sort of products and derivatives can be made. With this in mind, it's best to think of cannabis companies falling into three broad categories: Medical, Recreational, and Industrial.

Medical Marijuana (MMJ) was the pioneering market, with legalization

laws on the books around the world. Much of these movements gained traction based on anecdotal evidence of marijuana's strengths in treating certain conditions and diseases, and pushed forward by a compassionate movement.

These days the medical sphere is beginning to evolve around research and developing new treatments that will harness these compounds, while professionalizing MMJ treatment, including new studies, controlled dosages and informed physicians.

Companies like **Alternate Health Group (OTC:AHGIF)(CSE:AHG)** are focusing on technology products like customized medical records systems and delivery systems, with the aim of supporting patients and medical practitioners.

The controversial **Recreational** market is the most proven since it has thrived underground for generations, with a large share of profits falling into the wrong hands during 'The War on Drugs'. Big questions remain

on how recreational markets will be regulated, taxed, and enforced. Signs point towards trends on other controlled substances like cigarettes and alcohol. Pilot programs in Washington and Colorado are leading the way but there may be a push toward strict and controlled markets if developments in Canada prove a successful model for national legalization.

Countless companies have provided complementary products for the recreational market for years, but the current growth area is marijuana cultivation. Many growers legally operating in the MMJ space are eyeing shifts into recreational. Canada's largest grower, **Canopy Growth Corp. (TSE:WEED)**, is aggressively expanding capacity at higher rates than patient growth. This suggests Canada's licensed MMJ producers are banking on getting the first licenses for recreational as well.

An exciting but often overlooked side of the cannabis economy is **Industrial Hemp**. Canada has become a leader in hemp-based products. **Hempco (TSX.V:HEMP)** is earning millions in extracting oils and fibers from hemp.

Hemp legalization is spreading across the United States at state level, usually with less opposition than either medical or recreational cannabis.

For the time being there's a strong industries in many states in extracting cannabinoids, like cannabidiol (CBD), which may become fully legal at the national level soon.

Industry Focus: Cannabis, Marijuana or Hemp

DO YOU KNOW THE DIFFERENCE?

Nick Swan is an avid investor and advocate for Medical Cannabis Industries

Some common assumptions are that "cannabis" and "marijuana" are just different names for the same thing; c) Cannabis is the scientific name that refers to the entire plant and marijuana and hemp both come from the same species called Cannabis Sativa.

The difference being that characteristics of the plant have been manipulated over time to encourage certain chemical properties to become dominant, like a higher levels of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) in marijuana and of other cannabinoids, like CBD, in hemp.

Hemp and marijuana both produce naturally occurring chemical compounds called cannabinoids. THC is responsible for the psychoactive effects of marijuana, whereas CBD offers many health and therapeutic benefits and without the euphoric sensation associated with THC.

Humans naturally produce chemical compounds called endocannabinoids in the body that sustain internal stability and health by facilitating interactions among our cells, potentially relieving symptoms caused by a deficiency including pain, nausea, anxiety, and inflammation.

These cannabinoids are extracted from the cannabis plant and used in supplements, nutraceuticals, and likely pharmaceuticals. Cannabis companies are the forerunners of an unprecedented field of medicine, with the potential to unlock new therapies and techniques to fight disease, minimize addiction, and increase overall health and

wellness. Companies like Alternate Health Group (OTC :AHGIF)(CSE:AHG) began ground-breaking research into CBD treatments and delivery systems, like medical patches and sublingual dissolvable non-pharmaceutical tablets.

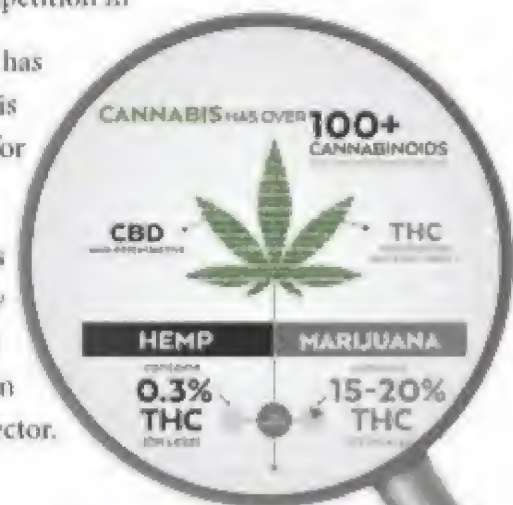
The Future of Cannabinoids.

The long-standing prohibition of any form of cannabis stunted research into the full potential of CBDs, with results just being realized now. There is evidence that they might protect the brain against damage, potentially stopping cell death after a concussion, stroke, or other traumatic brain event. Companies like AHG are investigating therapies for treating symptoms related to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and the Zika virus.

As evidence begins to solidify CBD's medicinal potential, companies with strong research portfolios and patented products will lead the competition in

this new field. Prohibition has stalled progress, but there is an unparalleled potential for growth and innovation.

With the right investments in research and technology today, innovative cannabis companies are set to lead in healthcare's next growth sector.



Women In Cannabis



Jade Green B.Sc

Jade is the current VP of Sales and Marketing for Alternate Health Corp, the first cannabis company to report an adjusted EBITDA in its first quarter.

Why have you chosen to work in the Medical Cannabis Industry?

For me, cannabis is currently the most exciting industry on the planet - it's a multi-billion-dollar marketplace that's being challenged by the plant's schedule 1 status, and it's one of the last globally-scaled agriculture commodities with worldwide implications. I love that my role in the industry gives me the platform to impact millions of lives through research, education and medical development.

What's the strongest argument in support of MMMJ?

Thanks to modern-day technology, the general public has instant access to thousands studies from around the world that prove the safety and efficacy of cannabis as medicine. However, many people still refuse to accept cannabis as a medical treatment - and that is fine, we will continue to do our part to educate the masses until every negative stigma is removed. In the meantime, I urge those opposed to medical cannabis to consider this, you may not believe that cannabis is

useful against cancer, epilepsy, or PTSD, but there are patients suffering from these conditions and more that deserve the right to decide for themselves. Please don't attempt to limit the rights of others to choose how they manage their disease; cannabis may be their only hope.

Why do you think The amount of women who work in this field is steadily increasing?

There is a larger percent of females in leadership positions in the cannabis industry than in other comparable US industries,

but I don't necessarily think it's the plant itself that is making the difference - women have proven to be successful entrepreneurs in many industries, when given adequate opportunity. I believe that cannabis companies tend to be very progressive by nature and therefore more willing to place women in executive positions and powerful roles. The industry is fairly new and ever-evolving, and female business leaders are drawn to the entrepreneurial prospects and the opportunity to change the world for the better.

The POT40



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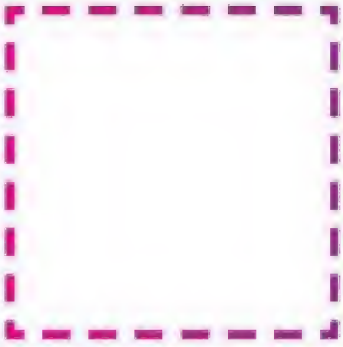
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